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1826. 1906.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF N.S.W.

HISTORICAL NOTES.



THE LIBRARY
OF
THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

BERKELOUW
BOOKDEALERS

with the author's Compl
F. M. Bladen.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES.

Historical Notes

COMMEMORATIVE OF
THE BUILDING OF
THE MITCHELL WING.

By

F. M. BLADEN, F.R.G.S., Lond.,
BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

Iubat antiquos accedere fontes.

SYDNEY :
WILLIAM APPLEGATE GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.
1906.

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FOREWORD.

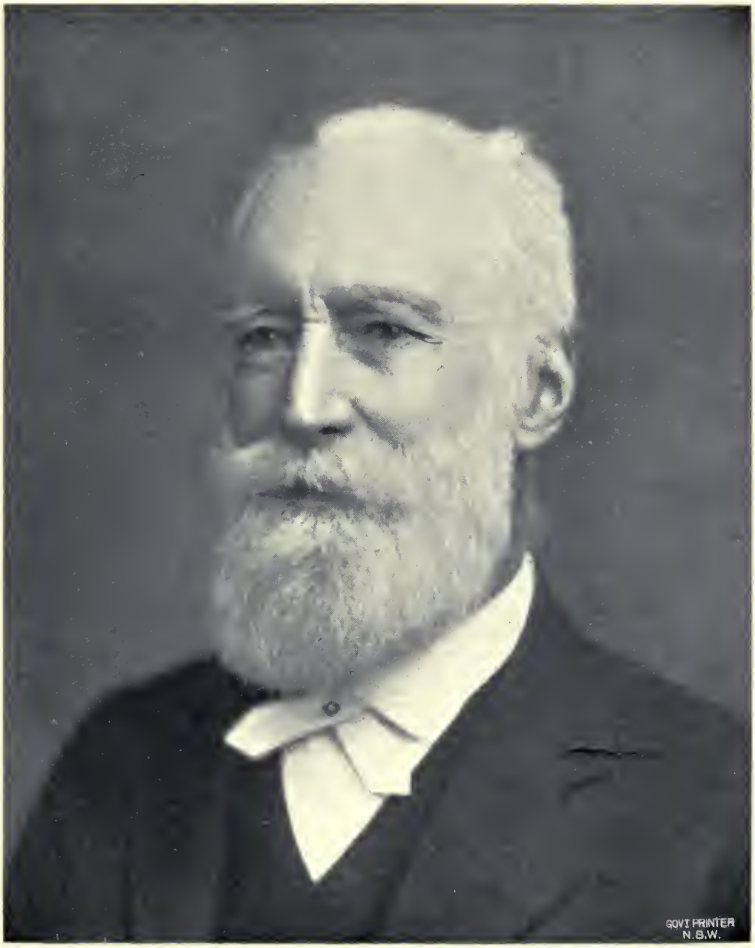
THE task of collecting authentic portraits of the men who, during the early days, were active workers in the library field, has been one of considerable difficulty. I have to express my obligations to Mr. J. Arthur Dowling, Dr. Andrew Houison, and Mr. Hugh Wright, Assistant Librarian, to whom I am indebted for many of the portraits and views.

I shall be glad to receive, at any time, portraits—for preservation in the Library archives—of any of the office-bearers whose names appear in Appendix "A," but whose portraits are not found in these pages.

F.M.B.

Public Library, Sydney,
25th August, 1906.

102885



JAMES NORTON, LL.D.

Trustee, 1878–1906. President, 1890–1906.

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Historical Notes.

THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE ceremony of laying the corner stone of the Mitchell Wing of the State Library appears to be a fitting opportunity for permanently recording the chief events in connection with the origin and history of the Library movement in New South Wales.

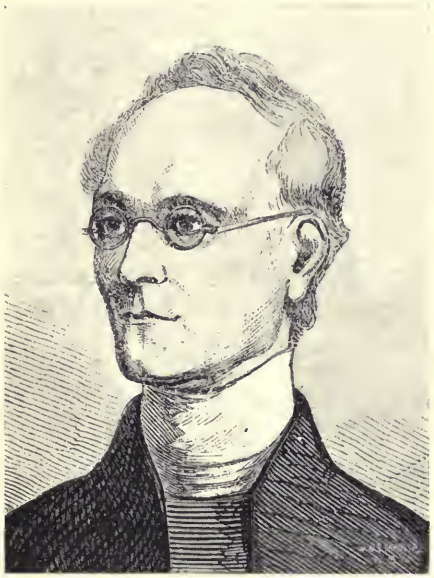
The expedient to which the scanty and scattered population of Sydney resorted, eighty-five years ago, to secure the circulation of the few books in the colony was ingenious and probably unique. A number of leading citizens made out lists of the books in their private libraries. These lists were consolidated into one catalogue or inventory. Opposite the title of each book listed in this consolidated catalogue, were placed the initials of the owner in whose private library it was to be found. Thus, if Mr. Justice Field wished to consult Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," and found, on referring to



GOVERNOR DARLING.

the catalogue, the initials "J.O.," he would know it was obtainable from John Oxley, Surveyor-General. So, it can be said that, in effect, Australia had a Library Catalogue before it had a Library.

No copy of this singular catalogue has survived. The scheme was originated in the year 1821 by Mr. Justice Field, and Messrs. Oxley, Goulburn, Berry, Douglas, Wollstonecraft, and Irvine. There is no reasonable doubt that the movement thus commenced was the germ of the old Australian Subscription Library, out of which the Public Library of to-day has developed.



REV. WM. COWPER.
Committeeman, 1826–41 & 1844–46.

On Friday, 3rd February, 1826, ten gentlemen met at the "Sydney Hotel," to consider the advisability of founding a Reading Room and Circulating Library at Sydney. Lieut. De La Condamine, A.D.C. to Governor Darling, then recently arrived, was the leading spirit, prompted, no doubt, by the Governor himself. With him were associated the Rev. William Cowper, Senior Assistant Chaplain; Dr. Douglas, Clerk to the Legislative Council; William Lithgow, Auditor-General; J. Mackaness, Sheriff; Capt. Rossi, Superintendent of Police; William Carter, Master of the Supreme Court; and Messrs. A. Kinghorn, J. Brown, and E. King, merchants. They held written promises of support from several other officers and civilians, and immediately declared the Institution formed under the style and title of the "Australian Subscription Library and Reading Room." The entrance fee was five guineas, and the annual subscription two guineas. At a later date, members admitted on these terms were styled proprietors as distinguished from subscribers, who paid three guineas a year, but no entrance fee.

Within a fortnight, the first general meeting was called. Rules and regulations were drawn up. Admission was by ballot, and one black ball in four was fatal. Officers of Men-of-war and Regiments, quartered at Sydney, were admitted as "Honorary Members" without ballot, but were required to pay the annual subscription. A stamp for the marking of books was procured, and directed to be placed upon the fiftieth, one-hundredth, and each succeeding fiftieth page of each volume. In later years it was also placed upon the backs of the books. The members were allowed to take out two volumes at a time. The penalties for not returning books were graduated, according to their sizes. For a folio volume the fine was 3d., and for pamphlets 1d., for every day beyond the regulation time.



THE FIRST BOOK STAMP.

The rules, and a list of the first officers and members, were printed. A fac-simile copy of this interesting and unique document is reproduced in Appendix B. The original is in the possession of D. S. Mitchell, Esq., M.A., and is the only copy known to be in existence.


WM. LITHGOW.
Committeeman, 1826–7.

In April, 1826, the first order for books and periodicals was forwarded to London, addressed to the Colonial Agent, Edward Barnard. The list of books ordered is still preserved amongst the Library archives, and is a very interesting document. The great quarterlies have precedence, followed by high-priced standard works on history, theology, biography, science, and travels. As if to grant concessions to the weaker vessels, Scott's novels were added, evidently as an afterthought.

The books, upon arrival, were deposited at the warehouse of one of the founders of the Institution, A. B. Spark, until a suitable house could be found. One of the first steps taken by the Committee was to solicit loans of books from members, with which to make a start. About five hundred volumes were obtained in this way. Some of them were subsequently presented to the Institution, notably those of J. T. Campbell and Archdeacon Scott. Many of these remain on our shelves to this day. Operations were commenced with about 1,000 volumes on 1st December, 1827, in No. 1, Terry's Buildings, Pitt-street. Terry's Buildings consisted of a terrace of five large three-storied houses, erected by Samuel Terry. They stood on the block of land which is now bounded on the northern side by Vickery's Chambers, and on the south side by the offices of Messrs. Richardson and Wrench. In the very early days they were amongst the notable

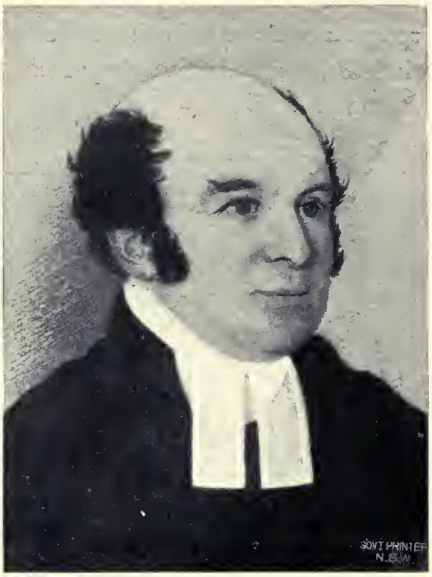


A. B. SPARK.
Committeeman, 1827-8 & 1834-5.



NO. 1, TERRY'S BUILDINGS, PITT-ST.
In which the Library was located from 1827 to 1831.

buildings of Sydney. The house in which the Library was located was the most northern of the terrace. It stood on the site where Messrs. Raine and Horne's offices now are, the present number of which is 86, Pitt-street. The ground-floor of the building was occupied by the Committee for the management of the Sydney Dispensary, afterwards the Sydney Infirmary and Dispensary, now the Sydney Hospital. The Library was on the first floor, and the upper storey was occupied by Peter Cooke, who acted in the dual capacity of Librarian and Dispenser at the modest salary of £40 a year. The rent (£120) was paid in equal proportions by each body. The Library was open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. In July, 1828, an alteration was made, the hours being from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.



REV. R. HILL.
Committeeman, 1826-31, 1833-4, & 1836.

Cooke was succeeded in February, 1829, by Charles Henderson, Clerk to the Corporation of Church and School Estates. He resigned in April of the same year, and was succeeded by George Baxter.

The bulk of the work, during the early years, fell upon De La Condamine, who continued as Honorary Secretary until his departure with his regiment, (the 57th Foot) in 1831. For several years Messrs. Berry and Wollstonecraft were the Honorary Treasurers, and amongst the most active members of the Committee were Rev. Wm. Cowper and Rev. R. Hill.

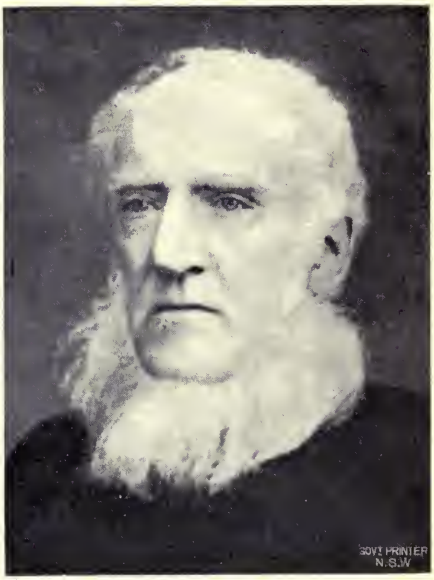
At the outset the books were of a very high educational order, what we would call, to-day, standard works for a Reference Library. Before two years had elapsed the inevitable cry for light and popular literature arose. More fiction was required. The books were too grave in character. These

complaints, and the fact that the subscriptions were falling off, alarmed the Committee, and the London agent was instructed to pay more attention to writers such as "Bulwer, Dickens, and Lever." In particular, he was directed to be very careful to include all of Scott's novels, and "any other recent novels which have been reviewed, and approved, by the writers of the *Edinburgh* or *Quarterly Reviews*."

One of the first acts of the original Committee was to divide itself into



F. N. ROSSI.
Committeeman, 1826 & 1829–30.



GEORGE ALLEN.
Committeeman, 1827–9.

sub-Committees: one for the selection and care of the books, another for the proper furnishing and up-keep of the house, and a third for the management of the finances. This sensible plan was not adhered to by later Committees, much to the weakening of the interest of the subscribers and the growth of laxity in the Committee itself.

In 1830, finding the income had dwindled in two years from £400 to £200, the Committee appealed to Governor Darling for assistance. They

were particular in emphasizing the fact that the Society ought to be regarded as a semi-public body, and claimed that they had

. . . laid the foundation of a Public Library, which, at no distant period, may become highly valuable and useful to the Colony.

They asked for a grant of a town allotment, and suggested that the Museum, then in an embryo state, should be combined with the Library. Governor Darling was sympathetic; he sent the Library his cheque for £50, and issued the following instructions, under date 10th October, 1831:



WM. BALCOMBE.
Committeeman, 1828.

"It appearing of great importance to the interests of this community that a Public Library should be permanently established on a suitable scale, so that the inhabitants may have the means of obtaining access to such standard and other works as it may not be convenient for every individual to purchase for his own immediate use, and an Institution of this nature having been already commenced, and some liberal contributions having been made thereto, but a building being still required, and the means of the institution being totally inadequate to the purchase of the ground necessary for its erection; let the President and Committee charged with the management of the "Australian Subscription Library" be authorised to select two allotments of ground in Hyde Park as soon as the arrangements shall have been completed for appropriating and disposing of the said ground, it being understood that suitable provision is to be made for a *Museum*, which, as far as regards the collection of animals, birds, &c., has been already commenced, and which it is conceived may be united with great advantage to the Public Library. The above ground to be granted free of quit-rent for ever.



FIRST BOOK PLATE.

With a view of still further assisting the Institution in question and as a means of evincing the interest which Government takes in its success, it has been deemed proper to place at its disposal two of the building allotments lately laid out above "Rushcutters' Bay"; let the President and the Committee, therefore, be authorised to select two allotments at that place, which, as the Institution will be at liberty to dispose of these allotments, by sale or otherwise, as may be considered more advantageous, are to be chargeable with the same quit-rent as the other allotments in their immediate neighbourhood.

RALPH DARLING."

It will be seen from the tenor and wording of these instructions that the Institution was regarded at the time as of the nature of a Public Library.

The Committee lost no time in acting upon the Governor's minute. Two allotments were selected in Hyde Park, the combined area being 300 feet by 260 feet. I have been able to locate the exact site by means of an old map of Hyde Park, which has been preserved in the Lands Department, and was evidently prepared by Sir Thomas Mitchell for the guidance of Governor Darling, whose intention it was to build upon the Park lying north of Park-street. This plan shows Market-street continued in an easterly direction to St. Mary's Cathedral, and Macquarie-street continued in a southerly line beyond Park-street. The allotments selected by the Committee were situated at the centre of the rectangle formed by College-street, Park-street, Elizabeth-street, and the continuation of Market-street.



F. A. HELY.
Hon. Secretary, 1831–2.

The two allotments "above Rushcutters' Bay" were each four acres in extent, with a total frontage of 800 feet to the eastern side of the Old South Head Road, directly opposite the present entrance gates to the Victoria Barracks.

Some years elapsed before Darling's orders were acted upon. In 1834 Governor Bourke (who succeeded him) confirmed the grants of allotments at Rushcutters' Bay; but substituted two small blocks in Bridge-street for the building sites in Hyde Park. These the Society refused to recognise as a fair exchange, alleging that they were both insufficient and unsuitable. Ultimately, they agreed to accept, in lieu thereof, a grant of the land on which the Public Library now stands, at the corner of Bent-street and Macquarie-street. Seven years elapsed before the choice was endorsed by a subsequent Committee, and ratified by the Governor. This block then formed a part of the Government Domain. It was at the back of the old Government House, which then stood at the present intersection of Bridge and Phillip streets. In fact, the allotment is described in the old papers as being "near the kitchen garden."



THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.
In which the Library was located from 1831-6.

During the years occupied in these negotiations, the Library had a rather precarious existence. In February, 1831, F. A. Hely, Superintendent of Convicts, succeeded Lieut. De La Condamine, as Honorary Secretary. In December, 1831, the books were removed from Pitt-street to rooms at the old Post Office in George-street. This building was situated

on the site of the present Post Office, and up till the year 1830 had been the Sydney Police Office. The illustration is from an old engraving: the original plans and elevation are still preserved in the office of the Government Architect. In the following month, Thomas Connolly was appointed Librarian, in succession to George Baxter. In the latter part of the year 1831, Richardson, bookseller, of Cornhill, London, was appointed agent to the Library; his terms being one-half the ordinary trade discount.



LIEUT.-COL. SHADFORTH.
Hon. Secretary, 1833–45.

In January, 1833, Lieut.-Col. Thomas Shadforth succeeded F. A. Hely as Honorary Secretary. In 1834, the Library was incorporated by Act of Council (5 George IV), and Dr. James Mitchell, Thomas Walker, and W. T. Cape were appointed trustees of the property. It is noteworthy that in the title of the Act, the words "Public Library" were used. In this year (1834), the first attempt at a classification of the books was made, and it was decided to divide them as follows:—

1. Agriculture and Horticulture.
2. Antiquities.
3. Architecture.
4. Chemistry.
5. Classics.
6. Commerce.
7. Dramatic Works.
8. Essays.
9. Geography.
10. History and Biography.
11. Jurisprudence.
12. Mathematics, Astronomy, &c.



SEAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY.

13. Medicine, Anatomy, and Surgery.
14. Mechanical Arts.
15. Miscellaneous Works.
16. Natural History.
17. Novels and Romances.
18. Philology.
19. Philosophy.
20. Poetry.
21. Political Economy.
22. Reviews, Magazines, and other Periodicals.
23. Sermons and Theological Works.
24. Voyages and Travels.

The first printed catalogue I can discover, is dated January, 1828. I do not think there was an earlier one. It contains the by-laws and a list of the officers and members. It would be obviously absurd to attempt to draw any comparison between this catalogue and one issued by a modern Library: in its time it was no doubt regarded as a very creditable piece of work: later catalogues I have seen, are those for the years 1834 and 1836. One glance at these old catalogues, makes it evident that the titles of the books then performed their original and intended function. For cataloguing purposes, a book was then known and described exclusively by its title. The author was disregarded entirely, unless his name happened to stand first in the title, *e.g.*, The Voyages of Captain Cook are entered under "Voyages"—not under "Cook." Lang's "History of New South Wales" is given under "History"—there is no entry under either "Lang" or "New South Wales." Sir Walter Scott's



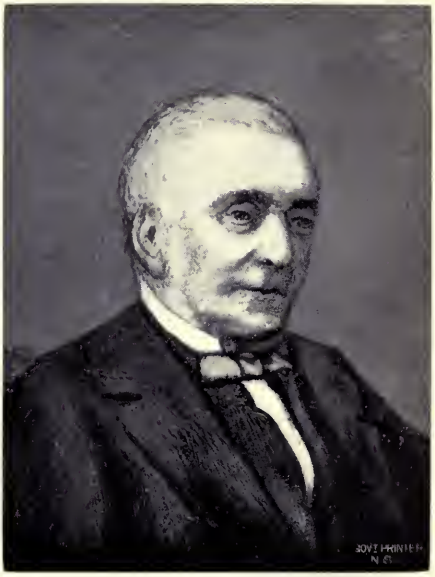
JUDGE THERRY.
Committeeman, 1831–2, 1834–7, & 39–40.

novels are entered under "Sir"—not under "Scott." In reality, it is an alphabetically arranged inventory, without location numbers or distinguishing classification marks, of the abbreviated titles by which the books were familiarly known to the Librarian ; in other words, the germ of the modern dictionary catalogue.

In July, 1835, Governor Bourke, in answer to a request for the conveyance of the promised deed of grant, suggested that the Government



JAMES LAIDLEY.
Vice-President, 1834–5.



REV. R. MANSFIELD.
Committeeman, 1836–7 & 1843–64.

should undertake the erection of a building. Without waiting for the consent of the Society, he wrote to the Secretary of State in the following terms :—

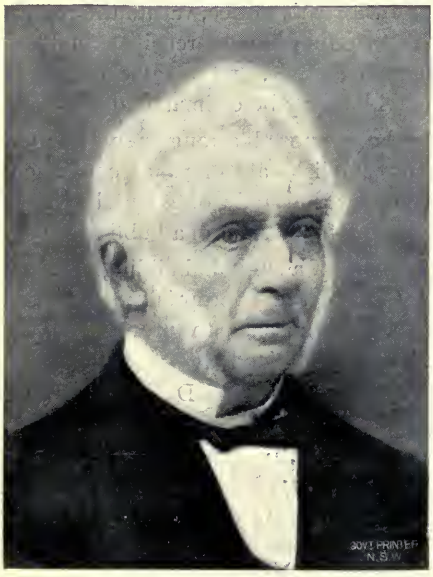
Government House,
"My Lord, Sydney, August 7, 1835.

In applying to your Lordship for permission to propose to the Council of this Colony the appropriation of money for the erection of a building to serve as a Library and Museum, and to be placed in connexion with the Sydney Botanical

Gardens, I have the great advantage of addressing a Minister who being himself a member of several learned societies is fully able to appreciate the value of Institutions formed for the promotion of Literature and Science. I may, therefore, I trust, anticipate a favourable reply to the proposal I have now the honour to submit to Your Lordship.



RESIDENCE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE.
In which the Library was located from 1836–40.



THOMAS WALKER.
Committeeman, 1834–8.

There has been for some time established in Sydney a Subscription Library, the members of which have lately become a joint stock company under the provisions of an Act of the Governor and Council. To this Act I beg leave to refer your Lordship for the Regulations by which the Society is governed.

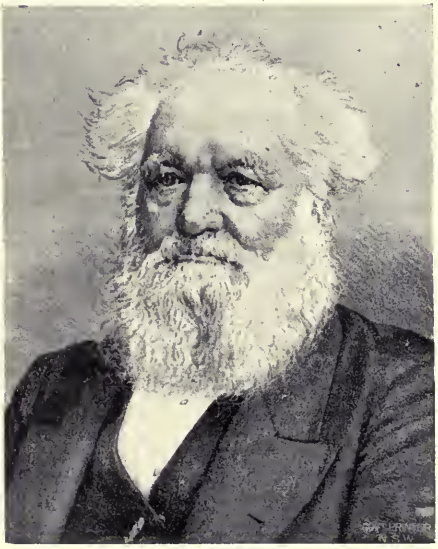
It has hitherto been maintained entirely by private funds. On the retirement of my predecessor from this Government he directed that it should receive two small allotments of ground in the suburb of Sydney and a building allotment within the town; the former to be sold to procure some portion of the funds required to erect a building on the latter, with the condition that the building should contain rooms for the Colonial Museum for which

collections on a small scale have been making for a few years past. This arrangement was subsequently approved by the Secretary of State.



G. K. HOLDEN.
Committeeman, 1839–40, 1846–7, 1856, & 1863–5.

It has been carried into effect so far as to give possession to the Society of the two suburb allotments, but I would beg leave to submit a different arrangement for the building. I apprehend some difficulty in procuring suitable rooms for the Museum in the rooms which the funds of the Society will enable them to erect, and it would be a novel and perhaps an imprudent measure to place the public property in a house over which the Government would have no other control than as a kind of a lessee of a part of it. I consider, therefore, it would be more advisable to build a house for a Library and Museum and cancelling the promise of a building allotment to the Society, to allow them to place their books in the Library and have the use and occupation of the rooms composing it, with a condition that they shall, if required by a year's notice, vacate the rooms, in which case they should receive a building allotment in Sydney, or the value of one at this day which may be estimated at £350.*



JOHN FAIRFAX.
Librarian, 1839–41. Committeeman, 1862–4.

By the proposed arrangement I might hope to establish at once a convenient Institution for the study of Natural History and to lay the foundation of a Public Library.

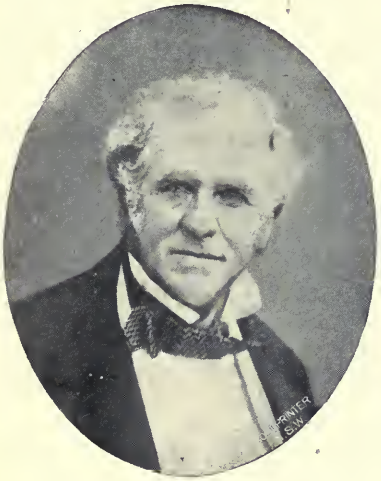
The cost of a suitable building will not exceed £4,000, the appropriation of which sum I beg permission to propose to the Council for this object.

RICHARD BOURKE."

* *Marginal note in original.*—This is reported by Mr. Macpherson to be the price at which all except one of the allotments in Bridge-street recently sold.

(William Macpherson was Collector of Internal Revenue.)

In 1836, a valuation was made of the property of the Society. The books (2,600 volumes) were valued at £1,040, and the furniture at £88 15s. No estimate was made of the value of land. During May of this year, the Library was moved from the old Post Office to the house in Bridge-street, then recently vacated by the Chief Justice. This building stood on the site of the present offices of the Department of Lands, at the corner of Bridge and Gresham streets. The illustration on page 13 shows the building as it was when occupied by the Chief Justice. It is taken from a view by J. Carmichael and from old plans in the Government Architect's Department. Additions, which entirely altered the appearance of the building, were made in 1854, and again in 1867, for the purpose of accommodating the rapidly increasing staff of the Surveyor-General.



LIEUT.-COL. BARNEY.
Committeeman, 1841–2.

On the Estimates for the year 1838, an amount of £4,000 was voted for building a Public Library and Museum. In July of that year the Society urged the Colonial Secretary to commence operations. Orders were in consequence issued to the Colonial Architect, Mr. M. W. Lewis, to confer with the Committee, with a view to the preparation of plans and specifications. At the last minute a hitch occurred. The Government required some assurance that the public would have free access to the books. The Committee, on the other hand,



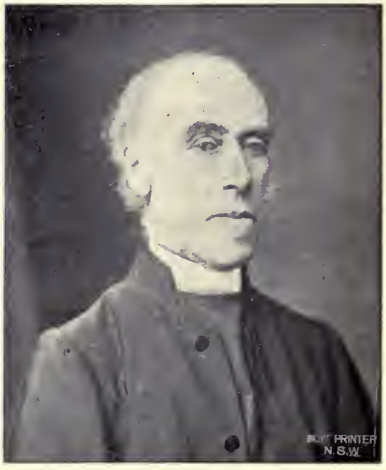
JUDGE BURTON.
Vice-President, 1842–4.

clung to their proprietary rights; if the Institution were to be transformed into a Public Library, they not unnaturally required some equivalent for the money (probably about £3,000) which had been expended in books, fittings, and furniture.



ST. JAMES'S PARSONAGE.
In which the Library was located from 1840–3.

A resolution was finally passed by the Committee, on 25th October, 1838, to the effect that a special room should be appropriated for the use of the general public (or non-subscribers), who would be provided with the books of the Library for perusal and reference, but not for loan, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.; access to be by ticket, signed by a member of the Committee, and renewed every three months; the expense of an extra Library Attendant thus incurred, to be defrayed by the Government. The Governor would not agree to this proposal, and the Committee, on being informed thereof, wrote to Sir George Gipps as follows :—

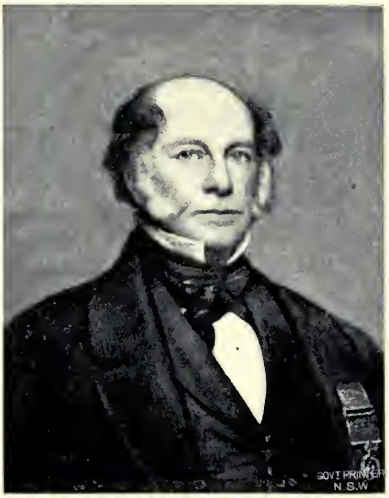


CANON ALLWOOD.
Committeeman, 1842 & 1856–65.

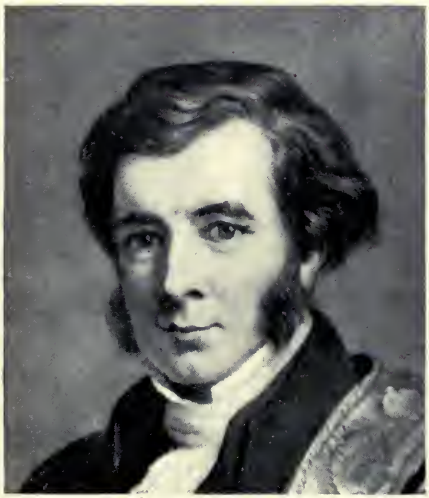
"The Committee having again maturely considered the subject, regret that, consistently with



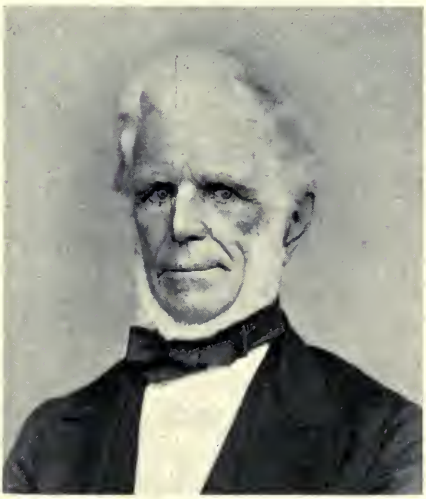
ALEXR. McLEAY.
President, 1826–48.



E. DEAS THOMSON.
Committeeman, 1830–1.
President, 1849–53.



DR. C. NICHOLSON.
Committeeman, 1838–47. Vice-President, 1848–53. President, 1854–5.



DR. J. MITCHELL.
Committeeman, 1832–53. Vice-President. 1854–5. President, 1856–69.

PRESIDENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY AND THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND LITERARY INSTITUTION.

their duty, they cannot meet His Excellency's views by recommending any further deviation from the principles on which this Institution was founded than what they proposed in their resolution of 25th October, 1838; but they confidently hope that on further consideration of these principles, of the peculiar circumstances of the Colony, and of the usages in the mother country with respect to the admission to Public Libraries, His Excellency will be satisfied with the arrangement which has been already proposed, and the more especially as His Excellency is aware that no strangers are admitted without tickets to the Library of another Colonial Institution which is chiefly supported at the expense of the Public Funds of the Colony.*



DR. LANG.
Committeeman, 1826–7, 1859–60, & 1863–66.
Trustee, 1870–8.

Gipps' reply is not available, but he enclosed Sir Richard Bourke's despatch of 7th August, 1835, quoted above, in proof that the Government was desirous of helping the Society, and sent also a copy of an approving reply from Lord Glenelg. Gipps probably hinted that they were occupying a Government building rent free, and were being rather



JUDGE A'BECKETT.
Committeeman, 1838–9.

* The allusion no doubt is to the Sydney School of Arts, towards the support of which the sum of £200 per annum was paid by Government.

generously treated; the reply of the Society was not calculated to pacify officialdom. They asked:—

"1. That they should not be deprived of any privilege or benefit granted or promised by Governor Darling.

2. If the rooms in the old Chief Justice's house of which they had been in permissive occupancy, were to be taken from them, they should be given due notice, and should receive from Government an eligible building allotment in the town, or a sum of money sufficient to purchase such an allotment on which "an edifice becoming the nature of the Institution, and which may be a credit to the Colony and an honor to the Government, could be erected."



P. J. ELLIOTT.
Librarian, 1841–65.



EDYE MANNING.
Committeeman, 1838–9.

While taking this stand, the Committee urged the Government not to stop the preparations for the erection of a Library and Museum, complaining in the same letter that they were being greatly inconvenienced by insufficient accommodation. A formal reply, to the effect that the Colonial Architect had been directed to prepare plans and estimates, closed the correspondence; but the Committee did not let any opportunity pass of reminding the Government that they expected Darling's promise of a town grant to be made good, or a money equivalent paid.

In January, 1839, Librarian Connolly resigned. The position was advertised in the Sydney papers, and John Fairfax appointed on 1st April.



J. H. PLUNKETT.
Committeeman, 1837 and 1865.

In November, of the same year, he received a gratuity for the way in which he had compiled the Library Catalogue, and, at the same time, a promise of an increase of salary, but the prospects were not alluring enough. After two years' service John Fairfax resigned, and was succeeded in March, 1841, by P. J. Elliott.

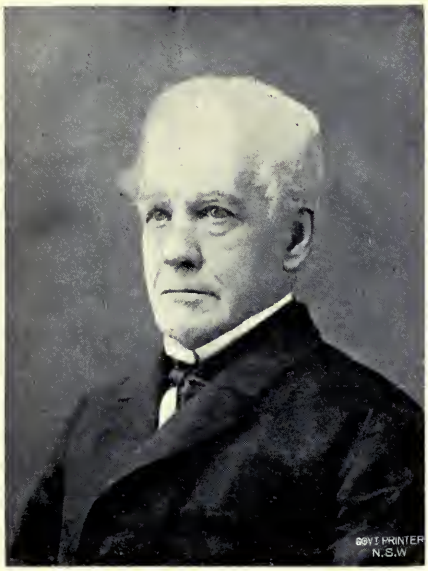
In May, 1840, the allotments above Rushcutters' Bay were sold for £3,384, and, in the same month, the premises in Bridge-street, occupied by the Library and Museum, were ordered to be vacated to accommodate the Surveyor-General and his Staff; rooms being provided for the Library at a building in Macquarie-street, opposite the site on which the Sydney Mint now stands. The main building had, at various times, been used for the accommodation of one, or another, of the Government Officials and their Staffs — notably the Surveyor-General and the Collector of Internal Revenue. It was finally granted to the Church Authorities for a Parsonage: the Library appears to have been located in the small annexe on the right-hand side of the building shown on page 16 *ante*.



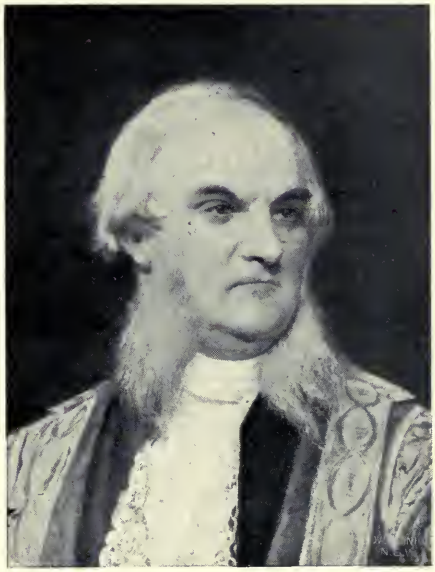
REV. DR. ULLATHORNE.
Committeeman, 1839-40.

Some of the entries in the Committee's Minute Book are amusing when read in the light of present day knowledge, *e.g.*, we find in October, 1841, one member of the Committee moving that "the work entitled 'Jack Sheppard' be ejected," and at the same meeting it was resolved "that three copies of a proposed work entitled 'Stolen Moments,' to be published in the Colony, wrote (*sic*) by Henry Parkes, be subscribed for."

The Governor having offered two sites to the Committee, one "opposite the residence of Mr. Edye Manning," the other "opposite the



DR. G. BENNETT.
Committeeman, 1846–53.



F. L. S. MEREWETHER.
Committeeman, 1848–9.

Club House," it was decided in May, 1841, to accept the former and start operations.

Upon this decision being made known, several plans were submitted by officials and private architects. In nearly every case they were on by far too ambitious a scale. Finally, in November, 1842, Lieutenant-Colonel Barney submitted a scheme for a building to cost £10,000.

This was adopted on the understanding that only a part of the erection (to cost £5,000) should be immediately undertaken. Within three weeks, tenders were called for, and accepted, and an architect, Mr. Henry Ginn, appointed.



W. S. McLEAY.
Committeeman, 1849–53.
Trustee, 1870–91.



CHARLES COWPER.
Committeeman, 1850–5.

Operations, on the land at the corner of Bent and Macquarie streets, were at once commenced, and, early in February, 1843, the work was sufficiently advanced to permit of the formal ceremony of laying the foundation stone. Sir George Gipps was asked to officiate; but for some reason—now unknown—he informed the Committee that he "declined presiding at the ceremony." The President, Alex. McLeay, was thereupon selected, and a Committee, consisting of Dr. C. Nicholson (Chairman), Dr. Ross, Dr. A. M. A'Beckett, and W. T. Cape, was formed to make the necessary arrangements for duly celebrating the event.

The ceremony was performed on 14th February, 1843. The speeches of Dr. Nicholson and Alex. McLeay were reported at length in the *Sydney*



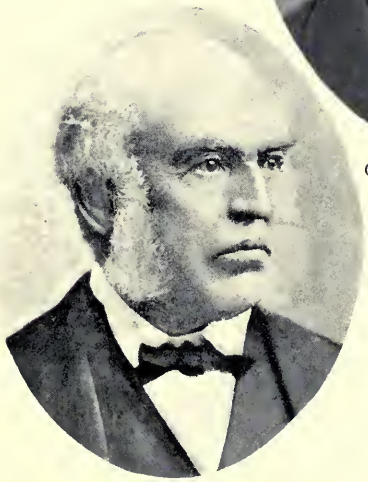
ALEX. BERRY.
Joint Hon. Treasurer,
1826–30.
Committeeman, 1831.



T. U. RYDER.
Hon. Treasurer, 1832–40.



GEORGE MILLER
Committeeman,
1835–7.
Hon. Treasurer,
1841–54.



M. METCALFE.
Hon. Treasurer, 1858–65.



A. H. RICHARDSON.
Hon. Treasurer, 1866–70.

HONORARY TREASURERS—THE AUSTRALIAN SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY AND THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND LITERARY INSTITUTION.

Morning Herald of 15th February, 1843. A brass plate was embedded in the foundation stone containing the following inscription :—

LAPIDEM. PRIMARIUM.
ÆDIFICII.
DICATI. IN. USUM.
BIBLIOTHECÆ. COLLATICIÆ. AUSTRALIENSIS.
A. RADULPHO. DARLING. EQ. ORD. GUELPH. GR.
ANN. SAL. MDCCCXXVI. INSTITUTÆ.
CONJECIT.
ALEXANDER. MACLEAY. SOCIET. REGIÆ. SOC.
PRIMUS. ET. UNICUS. ADHUC. PRÆSES.
SEXTUM. JAM. ANNUM. REGNANTE. VICTORIA. Q.D.S.P.
XVI. CAL. MART. ANN. SAL. MDCCCXLIII.
CURANTIBUS.
GEORGIO. GIPPS. EQ. AUR. COL. PRÆF. PATRONO.
GUL. GRANT. BROUGHTON. D.D. AUSTRAL. EPISC. VICE. PATRONO.
ALEX. MACLEAY. SOCIET. REGIÆ. SOC. PRÆSIDE.
GUL. WESTBROOKE. BURTON. FOR. REG. PRÆT. VICE. PRÆSIDE.

ART. M. A'BECKETT.
JOHAN. STIRLING.
CAROL. NICHOLSON. M.D. S.C.S.
JOHAN. L. INNES.
JACOBO. MITCHELL.
RAD. MANSFIELD. CLER.
GUL. B. CLARKE. CLER. A.M.
GUL. T. CAPE.
ROB. ROSS. CLER. M.D.
GUL. J. DUMARESQ.

TH. SHADFORTH. LEG. TR. A. SEC.
GEOR. MILLER. ÆR. COLL. CUSTOD.
PHIL. J. ELLIOTT. A. BIBLIOTHECA.
HENRIC. GINN. ARCHITECTO.

In a cavity in the foundation stone a glass bottle was deposited, containing a number of coins, and a copy on parchment of the Latin inscription.

The proceedings were followed by a luncheon, at which the usual loyal toasts and that of "Prosperity to the Australian Subscription Library" were proposed by the President.

About this time the Committee were notified by the Government that the rooms occupied by them near the corner of King and Macquarie streets, were required for official purposes, and as there were no other available premises belonging to the Government, it became necessary to rent rooms temporarily. On 1st April, 1843, the Library was removed (pending completion of the building) to a house in Macquarie-place, rented from Mrs. Reibey, for which £300 a year was paid. This was a serious drain on the precarious income, and the next year saw them pinched for money. In June, 1844, they wrote to the London Agent to cut



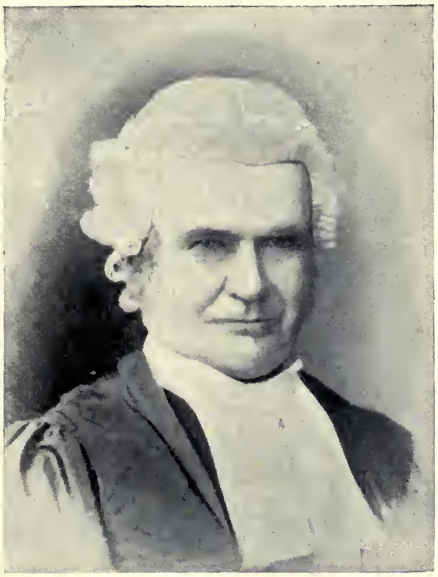
SIR THOMAS MITCHELL.
Committeeman, 1832–3.
Vice-President, 1845–7.



REV. W. B. CLARKE.
Committeeman, 1843–4, 1847–51, & 1854–5.
Vice-President, 1856–66.
Trustee, 1870–8.

his monthly shipment down to £5 worth of new books and to send no more works of fiction.

This was a year of dissension. Alarmed by the increasing liabilities and the decreasing membership, a party led by the Rev. Dr. Lang attacked the Committee. A special meeting was held on 28th February, 1844, Alexander McLeay in the chair. Resolutions severely censuring the Com-



CHARLES CAMPBELL.
Committeeman, 1841.
Deputy Chairman, 1869.
Chairman, 1870.



A. M. A'BECKETT.
Committeeman, 1842-5 and 1867-9.
Deputy Chairman, 1870.

mittee were moved by Dr. Lang; but he was hopelessly in the minority. *Inter alia* it was proposed to abolish the system of balloting for members and to reduce the subscription to £1 per annum. Amongst the members who supported the Committee were Dr. Bland, Judge Therry, Bishop Broughton, Richard Windeyer, James McArthur, and Robert Lowe.

Lang endeavoured to ventilate the matter in the Legislative Council, and on 17th May, 1844, asked a series of questions, without, however,

receiving much satisfaction or, apparently, any sympathy. Most of the reforms advocated by him were, however, subsequently adopted.



R. WINDEYER.
Committeeman, 1845–6.

In November, 1845, the long cherished object of the Society was achieved, and the Library boasted a building which it could call its own, and which had been specially designed to suit the purpose for which it was to be used. For about twenty years they had been forced to make shift in dwelling-houses or spare rooms in Government Offices. During that period the funds had been sufficient, but the accommodation unsuitable and often inadequate. The ensuing twenty-five years found them in an almost constant state of poverty, but with a commodious and handsome home on one of the finest sites in Sydney. For many years it attracted to its Reading Room and Lecture Hall the culture and learning of Sydney, and became the recognised meeting place and home of literary and scientific bodies. Numbering amongst its prominent members many men of remarkable mental calibre and earnestness, it became a much more powerful educational factor



S. A. DONALDSON.
Committeeman, 1850–1.

than the limited member roll would suggest. The exclusiveness, to which we can trace the ultimate reverses of the Society, was characteristic of the time and was not more peculiar to Sydney and its Library than to other places and similar bodies.



H. H. BROWNE.
Committeeman, 1852–61.

At a General Meeting held on 9th July, 1846, it was resolved that ladies should be eligible for election as subscribers. This resolution may have been passed in a formal way to allay the scruples of sticklers for constitutional propriety; or it may mark the failure of an attempt to exclude women, for, in the old lists of members and subscribers, published in the thirties, the names of several married women are frequently to be found.

In the year 1847 Governor Fitzroy granted to the Society an additional block of land on the northern side of the Library, having a frontage of 30 feet to Macquarie-street.



AUSTRALIAN SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY. 1853.

Special orders were sent to the London agent about this time to send regularly, as published, the works of Dickens, Bulwer, Trollope, Disraeli, Warren, Lever, and Maxwell.

On the 19th June, 1848, Alexander McLeay died. He had filled the president's chair, uninterruptedly, from the date of the foundation of the Society, and during the entire period his active interest had never flagged.

Mr. Deas Thomson, who had succeeded McLeay as Colonial Secretary in 1837, was elected his successor as President on 11th January, 1849.



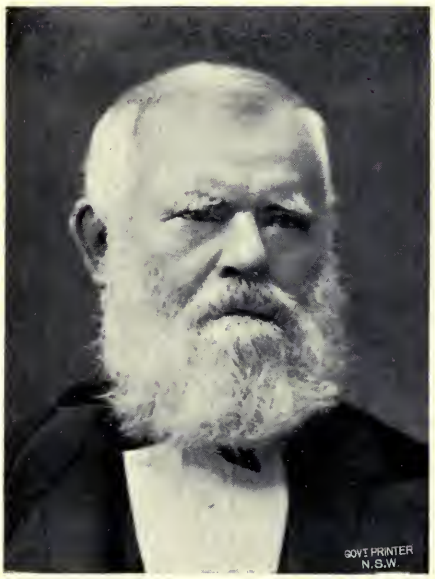
CAPT. P. P. KING.
Committeeman, 1851–2.



REV. DR. WOOLLEY.
Committeeman, 1855–7.

In 1851 the funds were very low, and the Agent was instructed to send out nothing but periodicals, public documents, and the proceedings of learned Societies. An application by the Librarian for increases in the salaries of himself and his assistant, occasioned by the high prices of provisions, was refused. A few months afterwards, however, the salary of the Assistant was raised to £1 a week, and at the same meeting the

Committee, with a fine disregard of the inevitable day of reckoning, ordered the Treasurer to apply to the Bank for an overdraft of £1,000.



THOMAS HOLT.
Committeeman, 1855 & 1861–4.

In January, 1852, the Treasurer reported that he had borrowed £300 to pay off loans amounting to £290. Notwithstanding the fact that they were heavily in debt, the Librarian's salary was increased this year from £155 to £205; at the same time the system of admission by ballot was discontinued, the nomination of three proprietors being sufficient for membership.

In 1853 it was decided to endeavour to stave off financial difficulties by procuring from Government a cash allowance in consideration of the benefit which the Institution conferred on the public from an educational point of view. The Government, however, refused, and the alternative of increasing the membership by widening the basis of admission was resorted to.

With this object in view, an Act of Council was passed, by which the Library was formed into a proprietary corporation of 1,000 shares of £25 each, entailing an annual subscription of £1 per share. The name was changed from "The Australian Subscription Library and Reading Room" to "The Australian Library and Literary Institution." Shareholders were entitled to a separate frank or token for each share held. These were transferable, and on presentation admitted the



T. W. SMITH.
Committeeman, 1856.

bearer to the Reading Room, the object being to afford access to the public for purposes of reference and to encourage the impression that the Institution was in the nature of a Public Library. A new stamp for the books and a new seal were at the same time adopted. The first meeting of the Society, after the passing of the Act, was held on 25th January, 1854. Sir Charles Nicholson was elected President; Dr. James Mitchell, Vice-President; George Miller, Honorary Treasurer; and Rev. Dr. Ross, Honorary Secretary.



SEAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND LITERARY INSTITUTION.

The years 1854, 1855, and 1856 were uneventful. There were not wanting, however, indications of waning interest on the part of the shareholders; and the Institution, for the want of regular and sufficient funds, began to suffer, both in character and usefulness.

In 1856 Dr. James Mitchell was elected President, in succession to Sir Charles Nicholson. For fifteen years Dr. Mitchell presided over the affairs of the Library: during the whole of this period he continued to take an active, personal interest in the Institution. He was a member of nearly every Committee from 1832 to 1869. He died on 1st February, 1869, shortly before the Library was taken over by the Government. D. S. Mitchell, Esq., M.A., founder of the Mitchell Library, is his son.



SECOND BOOK STAMP.

In 1857 the Government placed in the Library the English Patent Law Commissioners' Publications (about 200 volumes); although there is nothing to show that the general public could demand free access to these records, yet the fact of such papers being filed at the Library is an indication that the Institution was regarded as something more than a mere private Subscription Library. In 1858 a new contract was entered into with the Library's London

agent—Richardson, of Cornhill—by which discounts, off London publishing prices, of 16½ per cent. on new books, and 8½ per cent. on periodicals, were allowed.

During the years 1858 and 1859 it became evident that the formation of the Society into a legal body corporate, had not been a success. Several meetings were held, during this period, to consider the best means of improving the financial condition of the Institution. The Government was again approached, but in vain. A proposal to sell the building, land and property, and make a fresh start on a smaller scale, was negatived by the shareholders.



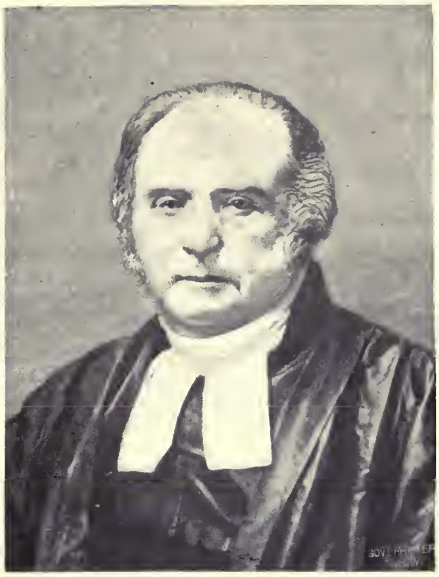
N. D. STENHOUSE.
Committeeman, 1857.
Trustee, 1870 3.



R. A. HUNT.
Committeeman, 1859-61.

Finally, it was decided in 1859 to reduce the expenditure, sublet part of the building, and enlarge the main hall so that it would be suitable for concerts, public meetings, and other gatherings. With this object in view a sum of £2,200 was procured on mortgage from the Savings Bank.

Nine months' experience showed that the expectations of the Committee were ill-founded. There was very little demand for the hall or lecture room,



REV. DR. ROSS.
Committeeman, 1841–5, and 1858
Hon. Secretary, 1846–54.



R. A. A. MOREHEAD.
Hon. Treasurer, 1855–8. Committeeman, 1860.
Hon. Secretary, 1861–3.



W. T. CAPE.
Committeeman, 1833–54, and 1857.
Hon. Secretary, 1858–60.

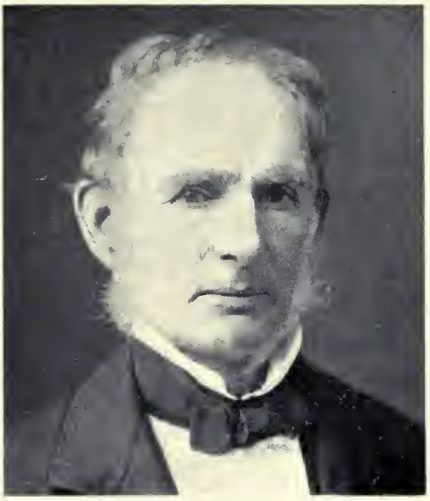


PROFESSOR SMITH.
Committeeman, 1854–60.
Hon. Secretary, 1864–5.

HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE AUSTRALIAN



C. KEMP.
Committeeman, 1848–9 and 1859–62.
Hon. Secretary, 1855.



E. DAINTREY.
Committeeman, 1853–5, 1858–9, and 1861–4.
Hon. Secretary, 1856–7.



M. FITZPATRICK.
Hon. Secretary, 1858. Committeeman, 1859.



WM. FORDE.
Hon. Secretary, 1866–70.

and it became imperative to reduce the cost of management and curtail the purchases of books. The charges for interest on loans were slowly but surely throttling the Institution. Towards the end of 1859 Mr. (afterwards Sir Charles) Cowper, then Premier, was waited upon by the Committee, and urged to buy the whole property at £15,000, and turn it into a Public Library. At this time the books were estimated to number about 16,000, and were valued at 5s. each (£4,000). The land, buildings and fittings were valued at £14,000.

The Premier, who for six years (1850–5) had been a member of the Committee of the Library, appears to have been inclined to accept the offer, but before negotiations could be completed the Ministry went out of office, and nothing further was done.



CAPT. E. WARD.
Committeeman, 1859-64.



R. JONES.
Committeeman, 1862–66.

On the 27th November, 1861, a special general meeting of the Institution was called by the Committee, to consider what steps should be taken to place the finances on a more satisfactory footing. It was decided to place the real property on the market. To this end, advertisements calling for tenders for the purchase of the land and building, appeared in the public press for several weeks, but no offer of any sort was received. Even the Government, when asked, refused, in the first instance, to make an offer ; but, in April, 1862, the Secretary for Works (W. M. Arnold), being desirous of

securing the premises for Government offices, wrote asking if the Committee would entertain an offer of £6,000 for the building and land.

The Committee replied that they would be willing to submit to the general body of shareholders an offer of £8,000. Ultimately it was agreed to refer the question of price to arbitrators. This was done, and the value assessed by them at £7,250. The shareholders, although they had agreed to the appointment of arbitrators, when called upon to ratify the sale, refused, and instructed the Committee to try and sell the books and fittings, as well as the building and land, to the Government. The price asked was £10,000.



W. R. PIDDINGTON.
Committeeman, 1865-7 & 1869-70.



R. JOHNSON.
Committeeman, 1866.

Before accepting this offer, the Ministry asked for the approval of Parliament. On the 30th October, 1862, Charles Cowper moved in the Legislative Assembly, "that the offer of the Committee of Management of the Australian Subscription Library to sell the property of that Institution, consisting of buildings and books, for the sum of £10,000, ought, in the opinion of this House, to be accepted."

The motion was discussed at length and with some feeling. One member openly attributed the failure of the Institution to its exclusiveness; the *bona fides* of several members who were shareholders was challenged; these, although they had spoken in support of the proposal, refrained from voting, and in consequence the resolution was defeated by one vote. It is noticeable that, during the whole of the negotiations, it was generally admitted that the Government were in duty bound to establish a Free Public Library; in fact, as early as January, 1862, the Legislative Assembly voted £25,000 for that purpose.



D. R. HAWLEY.
Librarian, 1865–9.

Foiled in their endeavours to sell at a profit, the shareholders improvidently staved off the evil day by raising another £1,000, on mortgage, to meet pressing demands. More than half of this sum went, at once, to pay arrears due to the London bookseller. These difficulties did not, however, prevent the Committee from voting £10 to illuminate the Library, in honor of the marriage of the Prince of Wales.

In September, 1863, the shareholders appear to have recognised the hopelessness of persevering in the endeavour to conduct the affairs of the Library on business lines, and fell in, at once, with a suggestion of the Librarian (P. J. Elliott), that he should pay them an annual rental and be allowed to conduct the Library as if it were his private business.

The terms of this agreement were, that Elliott was to pay a rental of £300 per annum, terminable by six months' notice on either side. The proprietors and shareholders were to pay their annual subscriptions (£2 and £1 respectively) to Elliott, and the Society was to guarantee him an initial

cash credit of £500, to enable him to purchase books, &c. Minor details in regard to the hours of opening and the preservation of the buildings and property were arranged, and the Library was opened under the new system on 1st January, 1864.

Before twelve months had elapsed it became evident that the new scheme was doomed to failure, and in June, 1865, Elliott gave six months' notice of his intention to terminate the lease. He was succeeded as Librarian by D. R. Hawley on 28th December, 1865.

The hopelessness of the situation, financially, can be gathered from the following statement made by the Hon. Treasurer at a General Meeting on 1st November, 1865. The debts amounted to about £4,800; the income from subscriptions, rent, &c., was £450; the cost of maintenance (including interest) was £900.

Several meetings of the shareholders and proprietors were held, in November and December, 1865, to decide upon the course to be pursued. Ultimately it was decided to reform the Company, writing down the shares from 1,000 at £25 to 2,000 at £5. Holders of one share in the old Company, to have four in the new. Holders of two or more shares, in the new Company, were to be allowed additional privileges, such as the right to introduce strangers, and to borrow increased numbers of books. A private Act was passed in April, 1866, and a start made immediately under the new system. The name "Australian Library and Literary Institute" was retained.



E. C. WEEKES.
Committeeman, 1866.
Deputy-Chairman, 1867–8.

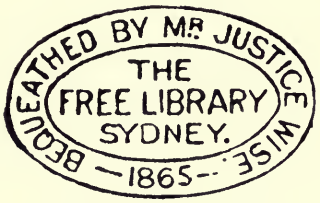
The subscribers, at this time, numbered less than 300; and a special stock-taking showed that the volumes, on the shelves, numbered 15,110. The estimate of 16,000 in 1859 must, therefore, have been excessive.

At the outset, it appeared as if a sufficient number of new shareholders would be attracted; but, in a very short time, the inadequacy of

the member roll became evident. The interest on loans was permitted to fall in arrears ; the booksellers' bills were allowed to accumulate ; in fact, the subscriptions were not much more than sufficient to pay salaries.

According to a statement made by the Committee in January, 1868, there were at that time 327 shareholders ; the indebtedness had increased to £4,933, of which nearly £300 was for accrued interest. Twelve months later the number of shareholders had increased to 344 ; nearly a quarter of them were, however, in arrears with their subscriptions. Less than £50 had been spent during the year in books ; but still the debt had mounted to £5,139, inclusive of £519 arrears of interest.

The bank, at this stage, stepped in with threats of foreclosure ; and frantic but fruitless efforts were made to raise more money by mortgage. Finally, in February, 1869, the shareholders decided to offer the entire



WISE-BEQUEST BOOK STAMP.



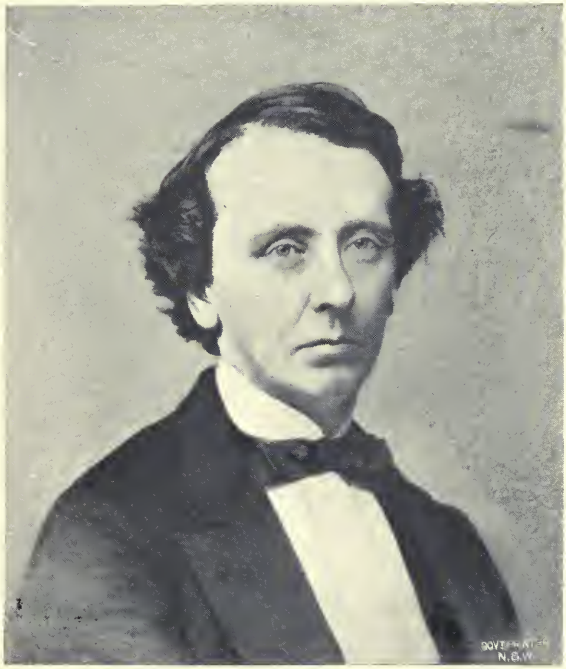
FIRST BOOK STAMP, PUBLIC LIBRARY.

property to the Government for £8,000 ; and, in case of refusal, to sell it by public auction. On the 12th March, 1869, the Legislative Assembly, on the motion of Dr. Lang, affirmed, by twenty-one votes to nine, the desirableness of the Government purchasing the books, building and land, and establishing a Free Public Library. Nothing, however, resulted, and in May following, the property was placed in the auctioneers' hands. The building, however, was obviously unsuitable for either business or residential purposes, and failed to elicit a reasonable bid.

This was the position of affairs in September, 1869, when the Premier and Colonial Secretary, Mr. (afterwards Sir) John Robertson, agreed, on

behalf of the Government, to purchase the books for £1,500 and the building for £3,600. Practically the whole of this sum was absorbed in meeting the obligations of the Society, and the shareholders received absolutely nothing.

The Government in deciding to purchase was, no doubt, influenced by the fact that the executors of the will of Judge Wise had presented to the Government his Library of Australian books, pamphlets, and newspapers, in trust, to be placed in a Free Public Library, as soon as one should be established. The collection had been handed over, and each book marked with a distinguishing stamp, in the year 1865, and had remained for five years in the custody of the Trustees of the Australian Museum, pending the provision of a proper home. It was an extremely valuable acquisition to the Library, for it remedied, immediately, a very noticeable weakness, viz., the almost total absence of Australian books and newspapers. The explanation of this neglect of locally-produced literature is obvious. The Australian Subscription Library was founded and maintained ostensibly, and almost exclusively, for the purchase of high-class English books and periodicals, which but few individuals could afford to buy, or otherwise have access to. The productions of the local press, on the other hand, were neither extensive, expensive, nor difficult to obtain. For this reason they were



JUDGE WISE.

neglected, and the Committee devoted all their funds to the purchase and preservation of the master-pieces of English literature. So entirely had this very essential branch of a Public Reference Library been neglected, that it has been one of the most difficult tasks of later-day librarians to make good the deficiency. The possession of the unrivalled Mitchell collection of *Australiana* will, however, put an end to our troubles in this direction, and place the Public Library of New South Wales among the noted national collections of the world.



G. EAGAR.
Committeeman, 1866.

On 30th September, 1869, the Institution was re-opened as the "Free Public Library of Sydney," with Robert Cooper Walker as Librarian and D. R. Hawley and E. O'Brien as assistants. About six months afterwards, the following Board of Trustees was appointed, viz. :—

Professor Badham (*President*).	Mr. W. S. McLeay.
Rev. W. B. Clarke.	Mr. W. A. Duncan.
Rev. Dr. Lang.	Mr. Robert Owen.
Sir William Macarthur.	Mr. N. D. Stenhouse.
Mr. W. B. Dalley.	Professor Stephens.

Including new purchases and the books comprised in the Wise bequest (about 6,000 volumes in all), the Library commenced operations with about 20,000 volumes. At the outset, the Trustees declared that their main policy would be "to encourage the attendance and minister to the convenience of earnest students seeking intellectual improvement," and, lest the Institution should be used for less worthy purposes, they removed from the shelves a large number of works of an ephemeral character (including about 2,000 volumes of fiction) as being likely to act as a lure to the idle and frivolous.



ROBERT COOPER WALKER.

Librarian, 1869–93. Trustee, 1893–7.

The yearly attendance at the outset was about 60,000, and the expenditure about £3,000. The Library was kept open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m., and books were not permitted to be removed from the reading rooms.

One of the first acts of the Librarian was to re-arrange the books into the following classes :—

	Volumes.
Natural Philosophy, Science and the Arts	1,922
History, Chronology, Antiquities and Mythology ...	1,698
Biography	1,411
Geography, Voyages, Travels, and Topography ...	2,027
Law, Politics, Commerce, Statistics, &c.	1,296
Theology, Moral and Mental Philosophy, and Education	1,018
Poetry and Drama...	510
Miscellaneous Literature, including Collected Works...	1,948
Encyclopædias, Dictionaries, and other Works of Reference	1,500
Prose Fiction	1,353
Periodical Literature and Newspapers, &c.	3,093
Specifications of Patents	2,501
Total	20,277

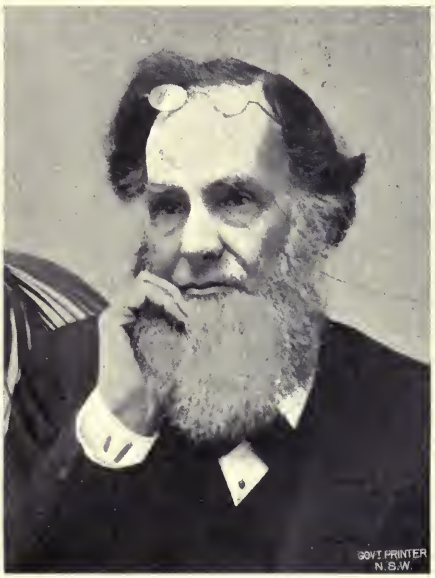


A. DICK.
Committeeman, 1867.

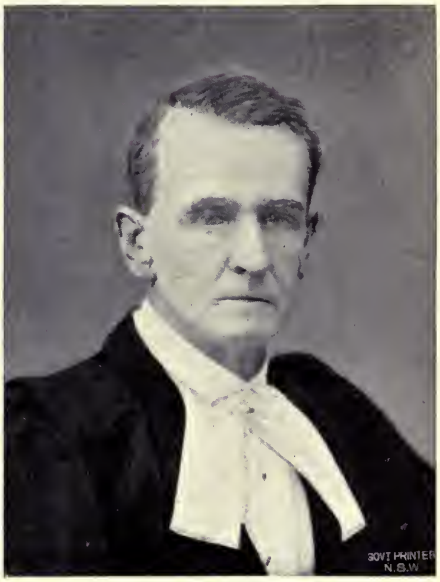
A rough list of short titles was hurriedly printed in October, 1869. This was followed, in 1872, by a much improved catalogue of 384 pages, containing a list of titles, arranged alphabetically under authors.

In 1876 a more ambitious scheme was undertaken. It comprised a general author catalogue; a catalogue of pamphlets; an alphabetical list or inventory of the titles of all the books in each of the classes; and a rough subject index; in all about 990 pages. This appeared in 1878, and was, for many years, the model on which the catalogues were moulded.

In their first annual report the Trustees stated that the Library was badly housed, and called the attention of the Government to the fact that a larger and better appointed building was urgently required. The complaint was reiterated in succeeding reports, without result. During the first fifteen years the hopes of the Trustees were frequently raised by the preparation of



ANDREW GARRAN.
Committeeman, 1869-70.



F. CHAPMAN.
Committeeman, 1869-70.

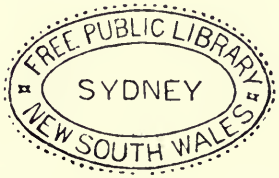
plans which were *never* acted upon ; the selection of sites which were *never* built upon ; and the voting of moneys which they were *never* allowed to spend.

Despairing of being able to obtain a new building, the Trustees, in 1884, consented to a make-shift in the shape of an addition to the old one ; and in 1885-6 a new wing, facing Bent-street, was added, at a cost of £14,690. This extension rendered necessary the vacation of the Librarian's quarters, to make accommodation for whom the house, in Macquarie-street adjoining the Library was purchased in July, 1884.

Immediately the Bent-street wing was completed, it was discovered that the walls of the old building, facing Macquarie-street, were unsafe, and would have to be replaced. Advantage was taken of this, to extend and re-build the whole of the Macquarie-street wing ; and to make it uniform in design with the Bent-street additions. This was not completed until 1889, the cost being £12,850.

Unfortunately the main consideration in deciding on the designs of the new wings, particularly the Macquarie-street one, had been that the building was intended to be converted into Government offices as soon as a new Library could be erected. The consequence has been that for seventeen years the Institution has remained in a building, not only totally inadequate in the matter of space and accommodation, but also quite unsuited, structurally, for the purposes for which it has been used. It is confidently expected, however, that the end of our troubles is in sight ; and that, when the Mitchell Wing is finished, the remainder of the State Library will be commenced without any break in the operations.





OLD BOOK STAMPS. 1870-80.

For the first few years, new books were purchased at the rate of about 1,500 volumes annually. In later years (subsequent to 1887) the yearly accessions ran to from about 3,000 to 5,000 volumes. At the present time the Reference Library contains about 140,000 volumes, the Lending Branch 29,000 volumes, and the stock, from which country libraries are supplied, about 6,000 volumes—in all about 175,000 volumes. The number of visitors in 1905, was as follows :—

Reference Library	175,029
Lending Branch	137,704
Newspaper Room	351,890
Total	664,623

Several of the Trustees, during the years which followed the establishment of the Library as a Government Institution, devoted a large amount of time to its management; particularly to the examination of booksellers' lists and the purchase of standard works, essential to the initial equipment of a first-class Reference Library. In this direction special acknowledgment is due to the great debt which the Institution is under to the first President, Charles Badham, D.D.—the greatest scholar Australia has known—and also to such men as W. B. Dalley, Professor Stephens, W. A. Duncan, N. D. Stenhouse, J. D. Lang, W. B. Clarke, and Sir William McLeay; all of them not only book lovers, but also men of high attainments and cultivated tastes.



G. A. LLOYD.
Committeeman, 1870.

The benefactions from private individuals have been considerable. In their annual reports from time to time, the Trustees have acknowledged these specifically. The Wise bequest has been already referred to. In February, 1885, Messrs. Richard and George Tangye (the former has since been knighted), of Birmingham, England, presented the Library with a copy of the first folio edition of Shakespeare, 1623, in a perfect state of preservation. This splendid gift is regarded as the Library's most valued possession. At various times we have received other rare books and manuscripts from the same source.

Amongst other notable donations may be mentioned the manuscripts of Governor Bligh, presented by his grandson, W. R. Bligh, Esq., of Parramatta, and the journal of Major Lockyer, pioneer of Western Australia, presented by his descendant, Mr. Nicholas Lockyer, Collector of Customs.

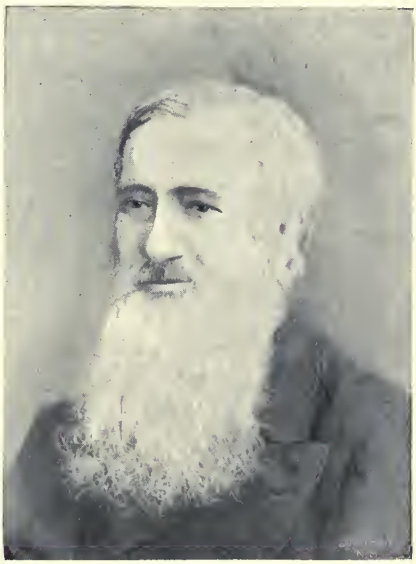


PROFESSOR CHARLES BADHAM, D.D.

Trustee, 1870–84. President, 1870–83.

Several important private collections have, at various times, been added by purchase, and have been the means of strengthening the Library in special departments of knowledge, *e.g.*, in November, 1885, the library of H. F. Gurner, of Melbourne, comprising 1,200 volumes, was purchased. This collection was particularly rich in Australian books and pamphlets, and was of great service in supplementing the Wise bequest. In February, 1886, Dr. Von Lendenfeld's scientific library of 439 volumes was purchased. In March, 1891, the classical and scientific library of Professor Stephens, consisting of 1,431 volumes and nearly 200 pamphlets, was acquired, and in December, 1896, 1,200 volumes of reports, bound numbers of newspapers, and other publications were received from the Chief Secretary's Department; in the following month I joined the staff of the Library, taking with me the manuscripts and records used in the compilation of the *Historical Records of New South Wales*.

In their third annual report, dated 9th February, 1874, the Trustees made allusion to the question of establishing a Lending Branch. They pointed out, however, that until the Library was housed in a more suitable and commodious building, this extension of its functions, however desirable, was quite impracticable. They favoured the erection of a building nearer the centre of the city, to be used as a Reference Library, and the utilisation of the old building at the corner of Bent and Macquarie streets as a Lending Branch.



W. A. DUNCAN.
Trustee, 1870–85.
President, 1883–5.

To John Stewart, M.L.C., Trustee, is due the credit of first advocating the advisability of equipping a Lending Branch; he proposed that a building, or rooms, should be hired in the city (Market-street or Park-street were named

by him as most suitable), and that about 5,000 volumes of standard works should be procured from England. The matter was discussed at several meeting of the Trustees, and finally, in March, 1876, an order was sent to England for 2,000 volumes at a cost of about £500.

When the proposal to establish this Branch was being discussed, it was subject to considerable opposition on the ground that it would attract readers from the more serious literature in the Reference Library. It was found, on the con- trary, that the for- mation of a Lend- ing Branch, even though carried on in the same build- ing, greatly stimu- lated the attendance in the Reading Rooms.



ROBERT OWEN.
Trustee, 1870–8.

The Branch was opened in the basement of the old Library building on 31st July, 1877. During the first six months 10,968 vol- umes were lent to 1,225 borrowers. The hours during which the Branch was opened, at first, were from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. The time was ex- tended on 1st Janu- ary, 1880, to from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. This alteration was found very accept- able to the working classes, who were unable, under the former regulations, to avail themselves to any large extent, of the advantages offered.

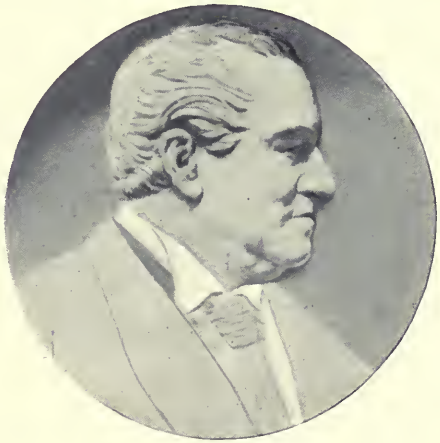
In August, 1881, the Branch was removed to a separate building, adjacent to Parliament House grounds, which had been originally used as a Church. Here it continued to steadily increase, both in the number and value of books, and the number of borrowers. In June, 1899, the Lending Branch, and the Newspaper Room, were removed to the second floor of the Queen Victoria Markets, in the very centre of the city. It is a coincidence, that the Branch should be located in exactly that part of the city, where, it was

originally proposed by the Trustees, to rent a room for this purpose, more than thirty years ago.

The removal to more spacious and centrally-situated premises, greatly increased the business. In 1898 (the last year of the occupancy of the old building) the number of borrowers was 6,348. In the following year it had increased to 8,675, while the number of books borrowed, increased, in the same period, from 92,685 to 110,548. The figures for last year (1905) are :—

Number of volumes available	29,121
Number of volumes issued	138,896
Number of borrowers	9,687

The Branch is worked on the Chivers's charging system ; the book Indicator has a carrying capacity of 35,000 volumes. The printed calalogues of the Branch compare favourably with those of any similar institution in this or the Old Country. Special facilities are furnished to students, in the country, to borrow high-class books through the post.



W. B. DALLEY.
Trustee, 1870–88.

In March, 1878, the Trustees were confronted with a resolution of the Legislative Assembly, affirming the desirableness, "in the interests of society generally," of opening the Library on Sundays, from 2 p.m. to 6p.m. The Rev. W. B. Clarke and Rev. Dr. Lang protested against the innovation. The President (Dr. Badham), in a letter to the Principal Librarian, to which publicity was given in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 9th April, 1878, wrote:—

"What is this philanthropy which would promote health and cheerfulness by opening that great dingy cavern of yours to the working-man, and wooing him, by books of voyages and travels, from healthy air and exercise?

A Library is not a fit refuge for those who have heard sermons, nor, at all a reasonable substitute to indemnify those who have not."

The Trustees, as a body, when the matter was referred to them, declined to incur the responsibility of taking any action, or making any recommendation. They had no funds to pay overtime to the staff, and pointed out to the Minister that an additional expenditure of £300 per annum, would be required for this purpose. The Government, feeling that the weight of



PUBLIC LIBRARY, SYDNEY. 1889-1906.

public opinion was behind Parliament, acquiesced, but would not provide any additional funds.

A careful account has been kept of the number of persons who have visited the Library on Sunday afternoon, and the number of books used by them; the figures show that the public has not availed itself of the privilege of access to the Library on Sundays to the extent which was anticipated. During twenty-six years (from 1879 to 1905) the number of books used on Sunday afternoon has been practically stationary, while the number used on week-days has increased nearly threefold. In May, 1896,

a notice was given, in Parliament, to extend the hours on Sunday, to 9 p.m. ; but the matter was allowed to lapse.

In 1883 the system of furnishing Literary Institutions in the country districts, with boxes of books, was brought into force. The first box equipped, contained sixty expensive, well-bound volumes, valued at £56 10s. ; quite 75 per cent. of these books were histories. The Board expressed the opinion that :—

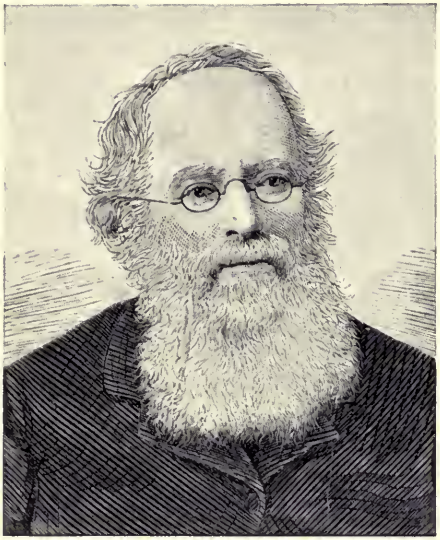
"£1,000 per annum spent in this manner will confer greater benefits upon readers and students in country districts than if £10,000 had been voted for distribution among these numerous Institutions in small sums to be expended by local Committees."

In the first instance a charge of £1 for each box, to cover the cost of freight, packing, collating, &c., was made. This, however, was discontinued after a few months, and since then, the Library has defrayed the entire cost. The first box was sent in August, 1883, to the Wollongong School of Arts.

The present proportions of the scheme can be gathered from the fact that during the year ending 31st December, 1905, 255 boxes, containing 11,871 volumes, were sent to 165 country centres, including thirteen lighthouses. It has been decided to ask Parliament to assist in extending this system, by circulating boxes of books on



LENDING BRANCH. 1881-99.



SIR WILLIAM MACARTHUR.
Trustee, 1870–82.

educational topics, among groups of Public School teachers in far outlying and thinly populated districts of the State.

In 1882 the Trustees ordered from Home a number of embossed books in Braille type for the blind. These were placed in the Lending Branch. In August, 1894, they were transferred by the Trustees to the three Public Institutions for the blind in, and about, Sydney. The books numbered, in all, 598 volumes.

In June, 1893, the Principal Librarian produced, as a result of several years of labour, his "Australasian Bibliography." It was an imposing quarto of 1,245 pages, elaborately descriptive of the *Australiana* of the Library. On the 25th August, 1893, Mr. Walker retired from the Public Service on a pension. He was a man of great industry, conscientiousness, and enthusiasm, entirely devoted to the Library, and possessed of a kindliness and urbanity which endeared him to his officers and helped to popularise the Institution with its clients. Shortly after his retirement, Mr. Walker was appointed a member of the Board of Trustees. He died on the 25th July, 1897.



PROFESSOR W. J. STEPHENS.
Trustee, 1870–90. President, 1885–90.

Mr. Walker was succeeded as Principal Librarian by Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, M.A., the present head of the Department. He came to the Library with splendid scholastic credentials. He had had a brilliant career at the University, had filled several important official positions, and was recognised as an authority on higher education. Mr. Anderson's régime as Principal Librarian has been marked by the introduction of the latest and best modern improvements in methods and appliances. As Librarian his name will always be associated with our system of cataloguing. No Public Library in the world can boast of being better served in this respect than that of New South Wales. Mr. Anderson's "Guide to the System of Cataloguing," now in its fourth edition, has been highly praised by the leading authorities on catalogue compilation throughout the English-speaking world.



JOHN STEWART.
Trustee, 1873-96.



EDWARD GREVILLE.
Trustee, 1873–1903.

In September, 1895, the name of the Institution was altered from the "Free Public Library of New South Wales" to the "Public Library of New South Wales."

In the following year the administration of the Copyright Act (42 Vic. No. 20) was vested in Mr. Anderson, as Principal Librarian and Registrar of Copyright. For many years after the passing of this Act in 1879, the clause which requires a copy of each book or print, published in the Colony, to be

deposited in the Free Public Library, was practically ignored by the publishers. It was not until the Act was administered by the officers of the Library that the Institution benefited to any extent. During the year 1905



SIR GEORGE INNES.
Trustee, 1879-96.



SIR WILLIAM WINDEYER.
Trustee, 1884-97.

we received, under this Act, 411 books and pamphlets, and a large number of maps, newspapers, and magazines, to the total value of £214.

On 17th October, 1898, David Scott Mitchell, M.A., a gentleman who had, for many years, been known by the inner literary circles of Sydney as a keen collector of books; and who was, in particular, admitted to be *facile princeps* in knowledge of Australasian Bibliography, communicated, verbally, to the Trustees, through the Principal Librarian, his intention of bequeathing his large and priceless collection of books, pictures, maps, engravings, manuscripts, autographs, and photographs, to the Public Library, on the sole condition that the Government would take early steps to erect a suitable building for a National Library, and make provision therein for keeping the collection by itself, and making it freely available for students of Australasian history.

Fac-simile of letter from **DAVID SCOTT MITCHELL** *to the Hon. J. A. HOGUE, Minister of Public Instruction.*

Nov. 3rd 1892.

Sir

I have received your letter of the 31st Ult. and note with pleasure that the Cabinet is willing to accede to my wishes as to leasing and selling certain of my Collection by me. I am permitted to hope that it will soon be found possible to

which refers to a site for
the Public Library. —

I am the honorable
Sir
Your obed.t humble servant
D. Bunbury.

Hon. J. A. Hodges.
Minister for Public Instruction

PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED BY W. A. GULLICK GOVERNMENT PRINTER SYDNEY, N.S.W.

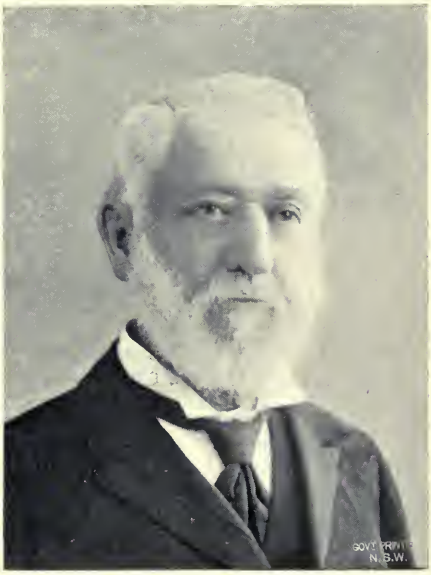
To this the Government readily assented. Mr. Mitchell's acknowledgment of the acceptance was dated 3rd November, 1898. The letter is reproduced here *in fac-simile*, not only because the handwriting of such a public benefactor must always, as a personal memento, be interesting, but also because this is the first written intimation, we have from Mr. Mitchell, concerning his gift.

From this date the question of erecting an adequate National Library was pressed upon each succeeding Minister, by the Trustees, at every opportunity. The undertakings and obligations of previous Governments, both in regard to votes of Parliament, and promises of sites, were frequently called up in evidence.

No useful purpose can now be served by dwelling on the pertinacity



SIR EDMUND BARTON.
Trustee, 1885–1900.

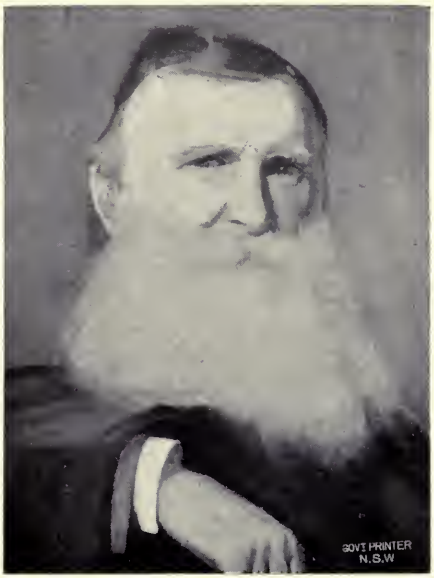


ALEX. OLIVER.
Trustee, 1885–1904.

with which the Trustees and the public dilated upon the danger of delay. From causes to which the incertitude of ministerial succession, and the fluctuations of public finance, largely contributed, seven years were allowed to

elapse before steps were taken which ultimately led to final action. In May, 1905, the Premier, the Hon. J. H. Carruthers, M.A., took the matter in hand with a quick and business-like enthusiasm which relieved the Trustees of any further anxiety. On 5th June following he interviewed Mr. Mitchell. Immediately, he decided upon a site; plans were prepared; and all preliminaries concluded. On 31st October, 1905, the Public Works Committee reported in favour of the erection of—

"a complete building, with stone elevations, on the site in the Domain facing Macquarie-street, and adjoining Parliament House grounds; and that the Mitchell Branch be proceeded with as early as possible."



P. G. KING.
Trustee, 1892–1904.

An Act "to sanction the erection of a National Library for the State of New South Wales" was passed: tenders were invited: and, in the early part of the year 1906, work was commenced. In their Annual Report for 1905, addressed to Mr. Carruthers, the Trustees thus referred to the steps which had been taken for the building of a new National Library:—

The Trustees desire to place, publicly, on record their appreciation of the vigorous steps which, during the past few months,



L. J. BRIENT.
Trustee, 1899–1902.



THE NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY, SYDNEY, IN COURSE OF ERECTION, SHOWING THE MITCHELL WING.

have been taken to push forward the work of providing a fitting home for the unrivalled collection of Mr. Mitchell. They are not unmindful of the extent to which you have personally interested yourself in accelerating the necessary preliminaries. In previous reports the Trustees had occasion to allude to the efforts which had been made by them at various times, but, unfortunately, without success, to secure the selection of a site and the erection of a suitable building; it is, therefore, with great pleasure that they now place on record the action which has been taken since their last report.

The illustration facing page 54 shows the new Library as, according to the present design, it will appear when completed. The Mitchell Wing occupies the right-hand (or Macquarie-street) portion of the building.



SEAL OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Mr. Mitchell's splendid gift is doubly welcome to the booklovers of Australia by reason of the fact that it has been the means of hastening the erection of a suitable house to contain the literary treasures of the State.

Another, indirect, outcome of Mr. Mitchell's offer has been the removal of the legal disabilities under which the Trustees laboured. As originally constituted, the Board had neither legal status, rights, nor powers. It could not acquire, hold, or dispose of property of any kind. Immediately Mr. Mitchell expressed his intention of bequeathing his collection to the Trustees, steps were taken to remove these disabilities; and, in 1899, an Act of Parliament was passed, entitled the Library and Art Gallery Act, by which the Trustees were constituted a body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal. The Act exempts from stamp duty donations or bequests of



PROFESSOR BUTLER, B.A.



HON. J. F. BURNS.



PROFESSOR DAVID, B.A.



PROFESSOR MACCALLUM, M.A.
President.



HON. J. HUGHES, M.L.C.



W. WOOD, ESQ., J.P.



HON. A. KETHEL, M.L.C.



J. C. L. FITZPATRICK ESQ.



HON. DR. CREED, M.L.C.



HON. J. HAYES, M.L.C.



HON. SIR NORMAND MACLAURIN,
M.A., M.D., LL.D., M.L.C.



J. L. FEGAN, ESQ., M.L.A.



J. M. GIBSON, ESQ.



J A. DOWLING, ESQ.

any kind whatsoever. There is, consequently, no longer any reason why this noble institution should not participate in the testamentary benefactions of public-spirited citizens.

While these "notes" were in course of preparation, the Library lost, by death, the services of the President of the Trustees, the Honorable James Norton, LL.D., M.L.C. Dr. Norton's association with the Library dated back to the seventies; for nearly thirty years he had devoted himself, without break in time or zeal, to the advancement of the Institution. His long intimacy with the affairs of the Library, his extensive legal knowledge, and his wide acquaintance with public men and governmental institutions and methods, combined to accentuate the strong sense of personal bereavement which every member of the staff felt who had the privilege of his intimacy. The Trustees have elected Professor MacCallum, M.A., LL.D., as President in succession to Dr. Norton; and Daniel Levy, Esq., B.A., LL.B., M.L.A., has been appointed by the Government to the vacant seat on the Board.



BOOK PLATE.

Appendix A.

Office-bearers of the Australian Subscription Library, the Australian Library and Literary Institution, and the Public Library of New South Wales—1826-1906.

1826.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

J. Mackaness,	Rev. R. Hill,
W. Lithgow,	Col. G. G. Mills,
Rev. Wm. Cowper,	Sir John Jamison,
Rev. Dr. J. D. Lang,	Captain F. N. Rossi,

William Carter.

Hon. Treasurers: Messrs. Berry and Wollstonecraft.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut. Thos. de la Condamine, A.D C.

1827.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

J. Mackaness,	Col. G. G. Mills,
Wm. Lithgow,	A. B. Spark,
Rev. Wm. Cowper,	Wm. Carter,
Rev. Dr. Lang,	G. Allen,
Rev. R. Hill,	T. C. Harrington.

Hon. Treasurers: Messrs. Berry and Wollstonecraft.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut. Thos. de la Condamine, A.D.C.

1828.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

Rev. Wm. Cowper,	J. T. Campbell,
Rev. R. Hill,	A. B. Spark,
Col. G. G. Mills,	G. Allen,
F. A. Hely,	T. C. Harrington,
Wm. Balcombe,	Wm. Carter.

Hon. Treasurers: Messrs. Berry and Wollstonecraft.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut. Thos. de la Condamine A.D.C.

1829.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

Rev. Wm. Cowper,	James Laidley,
Rev. R. Hill,	James Wilson,
F. A. Hely,	Jemmet Brown,
J. T. Campbell,	Capt. F. N. Rossi,
G. Allen,	H. Donnison.

Hon. Treasurers: Messrs. Berry and Wollstonecraft.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut. de la Condamine, A.D.C.

1830.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

Rev. Wm. Cowper,	Jemmet Brown,
Rev. R. Hill,	Capt. F. N. Rossi,
F. A. Hely,	H. Donnison,
James Laidley,	E. Deas Thomson,
T. Macquoid,	M. C. Cotton.

Hon. Treasurers: Messrs. Berry and Wollstonecraft.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut. Thos. de la Condamine, A.D.C.

1831.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

Rev. Wm. Cowper,	E. Wollstonecraft,
Rev. R. Hill,	E. Deas Thomson,
James Laidley,	M. C. Cotton,
T. Macquoid,	R. Therry,
H. Donnison,	Jemmet Brown.

Hon. Treasurer: W. J. Browne.

Hon. Secretary: F. A. Hely.

1832.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

T. Macquoid, Rev. Wm. Cowper, R. Therry, H. Donnison, Dr. J. Mitchell, Wm. Lithgow, Major T. L. Mitchell, Lt.-Col. Shadforth, J. E. Manning.

Hon. Treasurer: Thomas U. Ryder.

Hon. Secretary: F. A. Hely.

1833.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

T. Macquoid, Rev. Wm. Cowper, Dr. J. Mitchell, Major T. L. Mitchell, Captain F. N. Rossi, James Laidley, Rev. R. Hill, W. T. Cape, F. A. Hely.

Hon. Treasurer: Thomas U. Ryder.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. Thomas Shadforth.

1834.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F R.S.

Vice-President: James Laidley.

Committee:

Rev. Wm. Cowper, Dr. J. Mitchell, T. Macquoid, W T. Cape, F. A. Hely, Rev. R. Hill, Sydney Stephen, A. B. Spark, R. Therry, Thos. Walker.

Hon. Treasurer: Thomas U. Ryder.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1835.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Vice-President: James Laidley.

Committee:

Rev. Wm. Cowper, W. T. Cape, F. A. Hely, Geo. Miller, Dr. J. Mitchell, Captain Perry, A. B. Spark, Sydney Stephen, R. Therry, Thos. Walker.

Hon. Treasurer: Thomas U. Ryder.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1836.

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1840.

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W. T. Cape,	Rev. Wm. Cowper,
R. Therry,	Chas. Campbell,
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1842.

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1843.

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John Stirling,	Rev. W. B. Clarke,
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Capt. L. Innes,	Rev. Dr. Ross,
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W. T. Cape,	Dr. J. Mitchell,
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Rev. Dr. Ross,	J. Hume.

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Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1845.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Vice-President: Sir Thos. Mitchell.

Committee:

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W. T. Cape,	R. Windeyer,
Rev. Wm. Cowper,	Dr. C. Nicholson,
G. Allen,	Rev. Dr. Ross,
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Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

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Vice-President: Sir Thos. Mitchell.

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Lt.-Col. Shadforth,	Geo. Allen,
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Dr. G. Bennett,	W. T. Cape.

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1847.

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Committee:

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Dr. J. Mitchell,	Rev. R. Mansfield,
Dr. G. Bennett,	Rev. W. B. Clarke,
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Hon. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Ross.

1848.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

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Wm. Richardson,	Chas. Kemp.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller.

Hon. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Ross.

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1850.

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Rev. R. Mansfield,	Dr. G. Bennett,
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1851.

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S. A. Donaldson,	Capt. P. P. King,
C. Cowper,	Arthur Savage.

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Hon. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Ross.

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Committee:

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C Cowper,	Arthur Savage,
W. T. Cape,	H. H. Browne,
Rev. R. Mansfield,	J. Thompson.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller.

Hon. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Ross.

Australian Library and Literary Institution.

1853.

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Vice-President: Sir Charles Nicholson.

Committee:

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W. S. McLeay,	J. Thompson,
Dr. J. Mitchell,	Dr. H. G. Douglass,
Dr. G. Bennett,	E. Daintrey.

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1854.

President: Sir Charles Nicholson.

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Hon. Secretary: M. Fitzpatrick. Succeeded on 23rd June by W. T. Cape.

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President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C.

Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

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H. H. Browne,	E. Daintrey,
Rev. R. Allwood,	M. Fitzpatrick,
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R. A. Hunt,	Rev. Dr. Lang.

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Hon. Secretary: W. T. Cape.

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President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C.

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H. H. Browne,	Rev. R. Mansfield,
Rev. R. Allwood,	R. A. A. Morehead,
Charles Kemp,	Rev. Dr. Lang,

Captain Ward.

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Hon. Secretary: W. T. Cape.

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Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

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H. H. Browne,	Thos. Holt,
Dr. G. Bennett,	C. Kemp,
E. Daintrey,	Rev. R. Mansfield,

Captain Ward.

Hon. Treasurer: M. Metcalfe.

Hon. Secretary: R. A. A. Morehead.

1862.

President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C.

Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

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E. Daintrey,	C. Kemp,
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Hon. Treasurer: M. Metcalfe.

Hon. Secretary: R. A. A. Morehead.

1863.

President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C.

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E. Daintrey,	Rev. R. Mansfield,
G. K. Holden,	T. Holt,
Capt. Burn,	R. Jones,
Rev. Dr. Lang,	Captain Ward

Hon. Treasurer: M. Metcalfe.

Hon. Secretary: R. A. A. Morehead.

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President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C.

Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

Committee:

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E. Daintrey,	Rev. R. Mansfield,
G. K. Holden,	T. Holt,
Capt. Burn,	R. Jones,
Rev. Dr. Lang,	Capt. Ward.

Hon. Treasurer: M. Metcalfe.

Hon. Secretary: Prof. J. Smith.

1865.

President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C.

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R. Jones,	J. H. Plunkett,
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Hon. Secretary: Prof. J. Smith. Succeeded on 4th December by O. Ottley.

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Rev. Dr. Lang,	O. Ottley.

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W. R. Piddington,	Rev. Canon Allwood,
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G. Forbes,	Capt. Burn.

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Accountant :—W. H. Gifford.

Appendix B.

RULES

AND

REGULATIONS

FOR THE

CONDUCT

OF

The Australian Subscription Library

AND

READING ROOM

APPROVED

AT A GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 16th MARCH.

FACSIMILE.

SYDNEY:

PRINTED AT THE GAZETTE OFFICE, BY R. HOWE.

1826.

PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED BY W. A. GULLICK, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

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VICE-PATRON

HIS HONOR THE LIEUT. GOVERNOR.

PRESIDENT,

THE HON. ALEXANDER M'LEAY, ESQ.

FAC-SIMILE

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BERRY, Mr.	DE MESTRE, Mr.
BROWN, Mr.	GURNER, Mr.
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BLAXLAND, Mr. J.	HARRISON, Mr. J. S.
BLAXLAND, Mr. G.	HILL, Rev. Mr.
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COWPER, Mr. C.	JAMISON, Sir JOHN.
CARTER, Mr. W.	KINGHORNE, Mr.
CRAWFORD, Mr.	KING, Mr. E.
CLEMENTS, D. A. C. G.	LITHGOW, Mr.
CAMPBELL, sen. Mr. ROBT.	LEWIS, Mr.
CAVANAGH, Mr.	LANG, Rev. Dr.
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NAMES.	NAMES.
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Messrs. BERRY and WOLLSTONECRAFT.

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Lieut. DE LA CONDAMINE.

RULES, &c.

1. That the Members of this Institution pay

to the Treasurer, on admission, the sum of £5 sterling, and an Annual Subscription of £2 sterling.

2. That the Annual Subscription be payable in advance on the 1st of January of each Year.

3. That Members admitted subsequently to the 1st of July, be only required to pay half the Annual Subscription for that Year.

4. That the Business of this Institution be conducted by a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee, consisting of a Chairman and nine Members, three of the Committee to form a Quorum.

5. That the Committee be elected annually, at a General Meeting of the Members, when a time must be appointed for receiving the Accounts from the former Committee.

6. That the Treasurer be required to lay a statement of the Funds before each half-yearly General Meeting.

7. That any Gentleman, wishing to become a Subscriber, shall be proposed by a Member, and his Name recorded in the Library Room for at least three Weeks, before the next General Meeting, when all Gentlemen so proposed, shall be balloted for and admitted, if approved of by three-fourths of the Members present.

8. That the actual presence of eleven Members shall be requisite to constitute a General Meeting.

FACSIMILE

9. That no Regulation shall be made, amended, or repealed, except by a majority at a General Meeting, and until the proposal to that effect, signed by the Chairman of the Committee and the Secretary, as coming from the Committee, or by at least five Members who are not of the Committee, shall have been suspended in the Reading Room at least three Weeks before the General Meeting at which it is to be decided by Ballot.

10. That a General Meeting be held for the despatch of Business on the second Thursday in January and July of each Year.

11. That the Committee be required to call a General Meeting, whenever ten Members of the Institution shall unite in requesting it.

12. That any Member, having subscribed to the Library for three successive years, shall be privileged to transfer his interest in the Institution to any Gentleman who shall have been approved under the provision of Article No. 7 of these Regulations.

13. That a Book be kept in the Library for Members to enter the Names of the Works they desire should be purchased, adding their own Names to the entry of the Books they recommend, and from which, the Committee will make selections according as the friends of the Society will permit.

14. That all Works entered in the Catalogue

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by the Committee, as Books of Reference, or of great Value, shall not be taken from the Library.

15. That Books deposited in the Library by Individuals, for the use of the Members, shall not be taken from the Library.

16. That Members, on taking Books from the Library, shall be required to leave a receipt with the Librarian, and that a Book be kept for this purpose with proper columns.

17. That one Copy of every Periodical Publication received for the Institution, shall remain in the Library for one fortnight after its arrival, aud that two additional Copies, for general circulation among the Members in the Country, be ordered, of such as the Commitee shall approve.

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18. That the time which Members shall be allowed tc keep Books ont of the Library shall be regulated by the Committee.

19. That the following Scale of Forfeits be established for each day's detention beyond the time fixed, viz.

Folio or Quarto,	3d. per diem.
Octavo or Duodecimo,	2d, per diem.
Pamphlets,	1d. per diem.
Periodical Publications for the first six months after their arrival,	6d. per diem.

20. That if any Book be lost or defaced, the person in whose hands it was, or ought to have been, shall pay the original Value of the Book, or of the set, if it belongs to one.

21. That no Member be allowed to have in his possession more than two Volumes at a time, excepting when the Plans, Maps, or References are bound up separately, in which case, he may have that which refers to the Book he is reading.

22. Whoever applies first to the Librarian for a Book shall have it, and so in succession; but, if two or more apply for the same Book, at the same time, the preference will be determined by Lot.

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23. That Officers of His Majesty's Army and Navy, and Ministers of Religion, not permanently resident at Sydney, shall be invited to become honorary Members, paying the Annual Subscription only, and be entitled to all the privileges of this Institution, except that of voting at General Meetings.

24. That any stranger, a temporary resident for a period not exceeding three months, be allowed admission into the Library, if introduced by two Members who shall record his Name, with their own opposite, in a Book to be kept for that purpose in the Library.

25. That the Committee shall meet once a

month, or oftener, if necessary, and shall form themselves into Sub-committees, according to the several objects of the Institution, for the more effectual promoting its interests.

26. That if Subscriptions are not paid within a Month, by Members residing at Sydney, and by those that live in the Country within two Months after they have become due, the Librarian is expressly prohibited from giving out any Book to such deficient Members, till the sums respectively due by them are paid; and if any Member shall allow his Subscription to run in arrears for a twelvemonth, shall be considered to have discontinued being a Member, and forfeit his Share in the Library.

27. That a General Meeting shall have the power of expelling a Member, if the proposal to that effect, signed as coming from the Committee, or by at least five Members not being of the Committee, be openly suspended in the Reading Room, four weeks before the Ballot, at which a majority of three-fourths shall decide.

28. That the Subscriptions being made payable in advance, no debts shall be incurred by the Society.

FINIS.

R. HOWE, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, SYDNEY.

Appendix C.

NOTE.

The original intention, when the preparation of these "Historical Notes" was commenced, was, to publish them on the day on which the ceremony of setting the Commemoration Stone took place. Desirous, however, of making the "Notes" as complete as possible, and also of giving them a more intimate connection with the great event they were intended to celebrate, the Trustees decided to defer the publication until this account of the proceedings and reports of the speeches could be added.

F.M.B.

Proceedings at the Ceremony of setting the Commemoration Stone of the Mitchell Wing of the Public Library of New South Wales, 11th September, 1906.

THE ceremony of setting the commemoration stone of the Mitchell Wing of the new Public Library building at the Bent-street entrance to the Sydney Domain, which is to contain the magnificent collection of Australian literature presented to the State by David Scott Mitchell, Esq., M.A., took place on the afternoon of Tuesday, 11th September, 1906, before a large and representative gathering. Mr. Mitchell himself, owing to ill-health, was unfortunately unable to attend.

Amongst the large gathering of citizens present, representing the official, literary, artistic, and commercial life of the State, were the Hon. J. H. Carruthers, M.A., M.L.A., Premier of New South Wales; Hon. J. A. Hogue, M.L.A., Chief Secretary; Hon. S. W. Moore, Secretary for Mines and Agriculture; Hon. C. A. Lee, M.L.A., Secretary for Public Works; Hon. Sir F. B. Suttor, M.L.C., President of the Legislative Council; Hon. Sir John See, K.C.M.G., M.L.C. Of the Trustees of the Public Library, there were present the Hon. A. Kethel, M.L.C., Acting-President; Hon. J. F. Burns; Hon. J. Hughes, M.L.C., Vice-President, Executive Council; Hon. Dr. J. M. Creed, M.L.C.; Mr. J. A. Dowling; Mr. J. L. Fegan, M.L.A.; Hon. J. Hayes, M.L.C.; Mr. D. Levy, M.L.A.; Mr. Wm. Wood, J.P. (Three of the Trustees—Professor M. W. MacCallum, the President, Sir Normand MacLaurin, and Professor David—were absent from the State at the time; and the remaining three—Professor Butler, Mr. J. M. Gibson, and Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick—sent apologies for absence due to urgent private engagements.) Hon. N. Hawken, Hon. W. Robson, Hon. J. Wilson, Members of the Legislative Council; Messrs. W. Anderson, R. T. Ball, R. Booth, E. C. V. Broughton, J. J. Cohen, J. Fallick, J. Hurley, S. J. Kearney, J. Nobbs, E. W. O'Sullivan, W. W. Young, Members of the Legislative Assembly; and the following representatives of Mr. D. S. Mitchell, donor of the Mitchell Library:—Messrs. E. A. M. Merewether, H. M. Merewether, and W. M. Merewether (nephews), Mrs. Massey, Mrs. Wardell, and Mrs. Busby (nieces), Miss Rose Scott and Mrs. Shaw (cousins); H. C. L. Anderson, M.A., Director, Intelligence Department, and Principal Librarian; His Honor Judge Backhouse; Mrs. and Miss Badham; O. H. Baker, Consul for U.S.A.; F. M. Bladen, F.R.G.S., Librarian, Lending Branch; Rev. Canon Boyce; E. M. de Burgh; J. J. Calvert, I.S.O.; William Dixson; E. Du Faur, F.R.G.S.; W. M. Fairland, Secretary, Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts; W. M. Fehon; Mrs. and Miss Garran; F. B. Guthrie, F.C.S.; W. E. Hawkins, Hon. Secretary of the Shakespeare Society of New South Wales; Alexander Hay; Dr. A. Houison; H. A. Hunt, Government Meteorologist; R. F. Irvine, M.A.; D. Kirkcaldie; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lee; H. A.

Lenehan, Acting Government Astronomer; Charles Lyne; Lady Manning and Miss Manning; Miss Sarah Milligan; Dr. R. N. Morris; G. McRae, Assistant Government Architect; George Robertson; Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Saunders; Mrs. Robert Scott; Norman Selfe; Thomas Steel, President, Linnean Society; Mrs. and Miss Stephens; Lieut.-Colonel W. L. Vernon, F.R.I.B.A., Government Architect; Francis Walsh, Parliamentary Librarian; Mrs. F. W. Ward; Rev. W. H. H. Yarrington;

Proceedings were commenced by the Hon. Alexander Kethel, M.L.C., Acting-President of the Trustees of the Public Library, who invited the Hon. J. H. Carruthers, M.L.A., Premier of New South Wales, to place in a cavity which had been prepared in the commemoration stone, a hermetically sealed bottle containing notes of the addresses to be delivered by the Premier and Mr. Kethel, a copy of the annual report of the Public Library for the year 1905, copies of the morning and evening newspapers, and sundry other documents, also the current coins of the realm, and a number of medals taken from the foundation stone of the Parliamentary buildings which were originally intended to occupy the site. The Premier placed the bottle in the cavity, and the stone was swung up in readiness for setting. It bore the inscription:—

THIS . COMMEMORATION . STONE .
WAS . SET . ON . 11TH . SEPTEMBER . 1906 . A . D .
BY .
THE . HONORABLE . JOSEPH . HECTOR . CARRUTHERS .
PREMIER . OF . NEW . SOUTH . WALES .
ACTING . FOR .
DAVID . SCOTT . MITCHELL . M . A .
DONOR . OF . THE . MITCHELL . LIBRARY .

Address by the Acting President.

Mr. Kethel then delivered the following address:—

Our late respected President, the Hon. Dr. Norton, who had been a Trustee for twenty-eight years, and President for sixteen years, had long looked forward to this day. He did much to bring about the happy result that we are celebrating to-day, and hoped to be spared to preside over this ceremony, but he was stricken down with sickness and passed away from among us a few weeks since, being permitted to see the near fulfilment of his wishes, but not to participate in them. The Board of Trustees elected Professor MacCallum to the office of President in succession to Dr. Norton, and that gentleman being now absent from the State my co-trustees have appointed me to preside on this occasion.

As soon as men were so far advanced in civilisation as to commit their thoughts to writing in any portable form, whether on papyrus, bricks, tablets, parchment, or paper, there were books, and, consequently, libraries. It is said that as early as 3,800 years B.C., Sargon 1st, ruler of the Asiatic city of Accad, formed a library in that city. Libraries were also formed in the chief cities of Babylonia, and a famous one is said to have existed in Nineveh, rich in works on history, astronomy, sacred



THE HON. J. H. CARRUTHERS, M.A., M.L.A.,
Premier.

and scientific subjects. Egypt, Greece, and Rome also possessed many public and private libraries, that of Alexandria being famous for its reputed possession of a literature which contained the Wisdom of ancient Egypt. The downfall of the Roman Empire involved the destruction or dispersion of these ancient libraries; and during the middle ages the few books that escaped destruction found a safe asylum in the monasteries, where they were preserved with care and copied with scrupulous labour and great skill. The revival of learning in the 15th century, followed by the invention of printing, led to a vast increase in the production of books and introduced a new era in the history of Public Libraries. The number of these establishments has vastly increased and is constantly increasing, till now almost every town and village has one or more of them. Referring to the origin and growth of the Public Library of Sydney, it is interesting to note the expedient that the scanty and scattered population of Sydney at that time resorted to. (The whole population of the colony did not exceed 30,000, and of Sydney probably not quite half that number.) A number of leading citizens, in order to secure the circulation of the few books in the Colony, resorted to the ingenious and unique plan of each making out a list of books in his private library ; these lists were consolidated into one catalogue or inventory; opposite the title of each book listed in this consolidated catalogue were placed the initials of the owners' name in whose private collection it was to be found. So it may be said Australia had a catalogue before it had a library. The scheme was originated in 1821 by Mr. Justice Field, and Messrs. Oxley, Goulburn, Berry, Douglas, Wollstonecraft, and Irvine. There is no reason to doubt that the movement thus commenced was the germ of the old Australian Subscription Library, out of which the Public Library of to-day has developed. On Friday, February 3, 1826, ten gentlemen met at the Sydney Hotel to consider the advisability of forming a Reading Room and Circulating Library in Sydney. The leading spirit was Lieut. de la Condamine, A.D.C. to Governor Darling, who had just arrived; they had written promises of support from several other officers and civilians, and they declared the institution formed under the style and title of the Australian Subscription Library and Reading Room. The entrance fee was five guineas, and the annual subscription two guineas. At a later date members admitted on these terms were styled proprietors, as distinguished from subscribers, who paid three guineas a year, but no entrance fee. Within a fortnight the first general meeting was called, rules and regulations were drawn up: these rules and a list of the first officers and members were printed. A copy of this interesting and unique pamphlet is in the possession of Mr. D. S. Mitchell, and is the only one known to be in existence. In April, 1826, the first order for books and periodicals was sent to London. This list is still preserved among the Library archives, and is a very interesting document. The great quarterlies have precedence, followed by high-priced standard works on history, theology, biography, science, and travels; and, as if to grant concessions to the weaker vessels, Scott's novels were added. Operations were commenced on 1st December, 1827, with about 1,000 volumes, including several hundred lent by members. The first home of the Library was at No. 1 Terry's Buildings, Pitt-street, situated at the spot where Raine and Horne's Auction Rooms now are. A great many of these first imported volumes

are still on the shelves of our Library. During the next eighteen years the Library experienced several removals and varied fortunes, owing to the changing conditions of colonial life, and the rapid increase of the population of Sydney; and in 1845 the building in Macquarie-street on the site still occupied by the Library was built and the books removed thither. The institution soon became to be recognised as the home and meeting place of Literary and Scientific bodies. From 1845 till 1869 the governing body conducted the operations of the Library with varied success; but became involved in financial difficulties, and in the latter year they sold the building and its contents to the Government. On September 30th, 1869, after adding a valuable collection of Australian books bequeathed by Mr. Justice Wise, the Government opened the institution to the public as the Free Public Library of Sydney. From that date the history of the Library has been one of rapid progress in the increase and value of the books added to its catalogue, the systematic methods of working the Institution, and the growing popularity and public favour which it enjoys.

The original building being found unsafe, was rebuilt, but being too small to accommodate the increasing stock of books and the reading public, a wing facing Bent-street was added. This was very soon occupied to its fullest extent. At the present time the accommodation, even with that addition, is quite inadequate to provide for the ever increasing demand. At the time these additions were made it was recognised that a new Library would soon be a necessity; the architect had, therefore, their probable future use as Government Offices in view rather than the special needs of a Public Library. Consequently for many years the institution has remained in a building not only totally inadequate in the matter of space and accommodation, but, also, quite unsuited structurally for the purpose for which it has been used. It is confidently expected, however, that the end of our troubles is in sight, and that when the Mitchell wing is finished the remainder of the State Library will be commenced without any break in the operations.

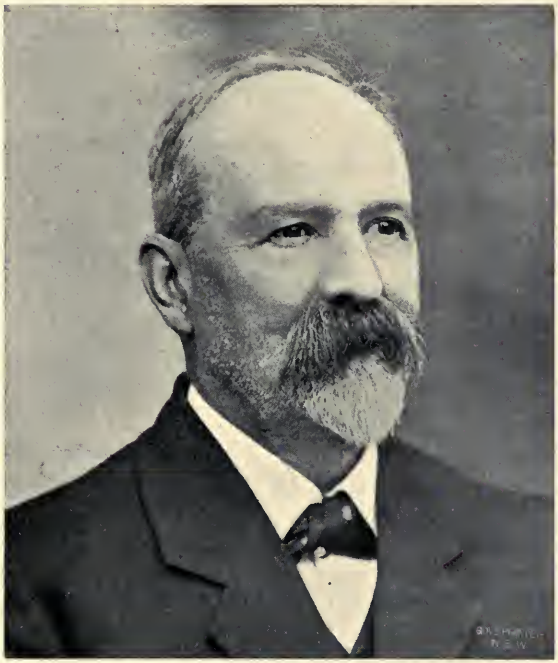
In 1877 the Trustees decided to add a Lending Branch to the Library, and started in the basement of the Bent-street building, but finding the space insufficient it was removed to the old iron church in Macquarie-street, in 1881. In 1899, the New Queen Victoria Markets being finished, and being situated in a central position in the city, the Trustees rented a portion of the second floor of that building, and removed the Lending Branch to these spacious and convenient premises, where they also established a newspaper room, supplied with all the leading Australasian, and a few European and American papers, which is proving to be one of the most popular Branches of the Library.

In 1883 the Trustees decided to supply institutions in the country districts with boxes of books, and since then have forwarded to schools of arts, municipal councils, and local public libraries, books, packed about sixty volumes in each box, of carefully-selected literature. These are forwarded free to all parts of the State. The first box was sent to Wollongong School of Arts. We also forward to scholars and students in all parts of the State, free of charge, educational works, such as they may require, and thus extend the benefits of the library to every part of the State. In addition to this the Trustees, acting under arrangements with the Navigation Department, supply lighthouse-keepers—many of them stationed in isolated

places—with boxes of books, suitable for both adults and children on the station. During the past year twenty-five boxes, containing 1,276 volumes, were supplied to the lighthouse-keepers along our coast.

In 1899 an Act of Parliament was passed called the Library and Art Gallery Act, by which the Trustees were constituted a corporate body with perpetual succession and a common seal.

The credit for the present site is entirely due to the Premier. He suggested it to the Trustees, who at once unanimously approved. The Secretary for Public Works (the Hon. C. A. Lee) thereupon instructed the Government Architect (Mr. W. L. Vernon, F.R.I.B.A.) to prepare designs for New Library Buildings, together with all the necessary particulars, for submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. Some active controversy took place at the inquiry relative to the question of alternative sites; but on the 31st October, 1905, the Committee reported in favour of the erection of the building. Mr. Carruthers has since given the matter earnest attention, and has pushed it on with such vigour that it is now on a happy road to completion



THE HON. C. A. LEE, M.L.A.,
Secretary for Public Works.

The Government invited Mr. Mitchell, the donor of the Mitchell Library, to set the commemoration stone, but in his regrettable absence through ill-health, the Trustees unanimously invited the Premier to perform this ceremony, and this course was cordially agreed to by Mr. Mitchell.

The plans are the outcome of the professional skill of the Government Architect, who has carried them out in conformity with the specification of the Principal Librarian, made after a tour of the principal libraries of Europe and America; all the latest points of library economy and administration are embodied in the plans, and it is expected to be very complete in its conveniences for students, and its comfort for the public and the staff. With power of expansion it ought to provide accommodation for this growing State for a century to come.

The last year's work of the Library was as follows:—

Reference Library, number of visitors	175,029
Newspaper Room, do do	351,890
Lending Branch, number of borrowers	137,704
Number of volumes borrowed from Lending Branch	138,896
Country districts supplied	152
Number of Lighthouses supplied	13
Number of volumes sent	11,871
Country students and scholars supplied	105
Number of books in Reference Library, December 31, 1905	139,342
Do do Travelling Boxes	6,122
Do do Lending Branch	29,121
Newspapers supplied during year	502
Do single issues	51,939

The Sydney School of Arts deserves more than a passing notice at our hands. Established in 1833, just seven years after the foundation of the Australian Library, it became at once a popular and useful institution. In addition to the reference and lending branches of its library, it established a reading-room with magazines, reviews, and newspapers; formed classes for the instruction of the youth of both sexes; and organised lectures, usually free, for the instruction of the general community, the lectures being generally on literary and scientific subjects. There was also a debating club formed, which, for fifty years, was a training school or nursery for our public men. Governors of the Colony and professors of the University frequently occupied the lecture platform, and graduates taught its classes. As early as 1870, the Committee of the School of Arts, recognising that the system of apprenticing boys to trades had fallen into disuse, and as a consequence our youths were either untaught or taught in a very slipshod manner, resolved to establish a Working Man's College. For this purpose they leased land and raised funds on mortgage to enable them to extend their premises and provide the necessary accommodation for the increased number of classes that were formed. The subjects taught were many, and ranged from cooking and domestic economy for girls to architectural and mechanical drawing and design. The system adopted was so popular and successful that in a few years it grew to such an extent as to induce the Government to take it over and make it an important section of the Educational Department of the State. Our present Premier, the Hon. J. H. Carruthers, when Minister of Public Instruction in 1891, secured the land at Ultimo, and caused to be erected thereon the present Technical College and Museum; and we trust that it will be his good fortune to complete the splendid edifice, the commencement of which we are to-day celebrating under such favourable conditions.

The Library of the Sydney University in 1859 contained about 8,000 volumes, chiefly works of lasting value. After the death of Mr. N. D. Stenhouse, Mr. Thomas Walker purchased his valuable library for £700 and presented it in 1878 to the University. Donations and additions were after that very frequent, and in 1885 the late Mr. Thomas Fisher bequeathed the sum of £30,000 to be applied to the establishment

and maintenance of a library. Since then the books have rapidly increased in number. They now consist of 70,000 volumes, and are keeping pace with the increase of knowledge in every department of human industry and scholarship. The handsome and commodious building now being erected by the Government for the Fisher Library, and rapidly approaching completion, will form a fitting home for this great and growing library, and afford facilities for the teaching staff and the students within its spacious halls.

The library of the Parliament is one of the oldest in the State. It was established in the year 1843 in connection with the combined nominee and elected Legislative Council of that time. The library then possessed less than 400 books, which number has since increased to almost 50,000 volumes. On the first Library Committee were Dr. Nicholson (afterwards Sir Charles) and Mr. Edward Deas Thomson (Colonial Secretary). The appropriation for books was limited to £300, and the expenditure up to 1856 was £3,453 upon 6,662 books. Since the advent of responsible government, the library has been managed by a joint committee of both Houses. Regarding the composition of the library collection, the aim has been to maintain it as one of practical utility rather than one of a general character; consequently the division devoted to works on Government and books relating generally to the business of Parliament is necessarily the most complete. But the other sections, including history, biography, geography and travel, and general literature, are sufficiently comprehensive to meet the requirements of the Legislature. Until last year no suitable provision had been made to house the books properly, but since then a commodious fire-proof library has been completed, and it was opened by His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of the celebration of the Jubilee of responsible Government on 22nd May, 1906.

The Royal Society of New South Wales possesses a library of 20,000 volumes, the major portion of which consists of the transactions of various Societies and Institutions, and journals dealing with every branch of science, in the collection of which the Trustees have been largely indebted to the Government of the United States of America, the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, and other learned bodies in Europe and America. It is available for consultation, not only to members, but, also, under very liberal conditions, to the public at large.

In addition to the libraries referred to in the foregoing remarks, there are in Sydney:—The Australian Museum Library of 12,000 volumes, consisting principally of proceedings of learned societies, and scientific books, which although primarily required for reference by the Staff in connection with the work of the Museum, are available under regulations for consultation by students.

The Linnean Society had its library destroyed at the Garden Palace Fire in 1882, but has since collected about 9,000 volumes, all of a scientific character.

The library of the Technical College, dating from 1881, contains 3,892 volumes of books, 1,115 volumes bound periodicals and 63 trades journals. They are principally text-books and publications dealing with subjects taught at the College.

All these libraries are constantly increasing the number of books on their shelves. In addition to these public or quasi-public institutions, the reading public is catered for by numerous book clubs and private circulating libraries.

These figures will serve to show that, considering its age, and the difficulties incidental to pioneering life in a new country, New South Wales, with its capital city, is not badly provided with libraries for the use of its different classes of students. It is to be hoped that the generous example of Mr. Mitchell will now be followed by many other citizens who have made special collections in accordance with their own individual tastes. By the generosity of the Parliament, which we hope will be continued to us in the future as it has been in the past, aided by the sympathetic co-operation of private citizens and collectors of books, we hope to see our State Library become as great, as renowned, and as useful to New South Wales as kindred institutions have proved themselves to be in the older countries of the world.

At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Kethel, on behalf of Mr. D. S. Mitchell, the donor of the Mitchell Collection, and of the Trustees of the Public Library, invited Mr. Carruthers to lay the commemoration stone. The Premier performed the ceremony with a trowel and mallet presented for the purpose by Messrs. Howie Brothers, the contractors, and declared the stone to be well and truly laid.

Address by the Premier.

Mr. Carruthers then addressed the gathering in the following words:—

Mr. Kethel, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I am sure that all present will join with me in regretting that the late President of the Library, Dr. Norton, has not lived to take that leading part in to-day's ceremony which his worth deserved. I know that prior to his death he had looked forward with keen zest to this function, and had actually prepared the notes of his address. The Public Library owes a great deal of its present value to his keen personal interest as well as to his valuable knowledge of books; but we are favoured in having present with us to-day the Acting-President, Mr. Kethel, who is a fit representative of such a democratic institution. He is a living illustration of the value of study and of the use of books in helping to make a useful citizen. But, above all, we must regret the absence of Mr. Mitchell, and especially that it is owing to his ill-health that he was prevented from accepting the invitation of the Government to set this stone. I consider it a very high honor to be permitted to associate my name with this great national undertaking, and especially so at the invitation of the trustees with the special support of Mr. Mitchell, who, I understand, expressed the desire that I should perform the official ceremony of the day.

The Government is gratified that the contract has fallen into the able hands of old and tried contractors, Messrs. Howie Bros., whose name is proverbial for faithful work and straightforward dealing, and who have already had some part in building our existing Public Library, our National Art Gallery, and other notable buildings.

It will not be out of place for me to refer to Mr. Mitchell, whose magnificent gift has called for the erection of this building. It is a remarkable fact, worthy of special note, that Mr. Mitchell was born in the medical officer's quarters of the old Military Hospital, which is now Parliament House, and therefore within a few feet of the site of the Mitchell Library, which is to contain his unique collection. His father, the Hon. Dr. James Mitchell, a member of the first Council appointed by the Imperial Government, and afterwards of the Legislative Council under responsible Government, took a warm personal interest in the old Australian Subscription Library, on the committee of which he served for thirty-seven years, from 1832 till 1869. Mr. Mitchell was one of the first batch of students at our University, going to the classes of Dr. Woolley at the age of 16. Among his fellow-students were the late Sir William Windeyer and Alexander Oliver, also the Rev. R. S. Willis, who happily survives so many of that first class of graduates. Mr. Mitchell distinguished himself as a student, winning a scholarship and honors in classics. He was also distinguished in the cricket field and in other manly sports. After graduating in 1856, he studied for the Bar, to which he was admitted in due course. He never practised his profession, as he found the management of his large estate in the Hunter Valley sufficient to absorb his energies, but the fact that he was once offered the position of Attorney-General indicates the opinion held by one Premier of his abilities and potential value to the State. Unfortunately the biographical details available about our benefactor are very meagre, owing to his absolute disregard of self, and refusal to grant any one an interview, or to discuss anything more personal than the Library which he wishes to present to his native land—the one great object of his life. He began to make a choice collection of books, chiefly poetry and the drama of all countries, at an early age, but in later years gave his most loving attention to Australian books and records.

In 1898 Mr. Mitchell intimated his intention of bequeathing the collection which he had been making for forty years, with the simple condition attached to the gift that the Government should, at an early date, provide accommodation for the library, and make it freely available for the use of students on the lines of the British Museum. The Government gladly accepted this condition, but, unfortunately, nothing definite was done in the way of making plans and commencing the building until last year. In 1899 the Public Library was incorporated, mainly through the sympathetic action of Mr. Wise, and thereby the trustees were made a corporate body with perpetual succession, able to hold and administer any property bequeathed to them. Owing mainly to the difficulties encountered with regard to the sites chosen, little progress was effected till the present Government suggested the site now adopted, which met with the hearty concurrence of the trustees and Mr. Mitchell himself.

The Principal Librarian at once submitted a specification for a comprehensive and well-planned building, dictated by the experience gained by him during his visit to Europe and America, where he saw the greatest modern libraries. The Government Architect has prepared a worthy plan, which will provide a building that will serve the purposes of students, be convenient to administer in the interests of the public and the staff, and will provide one of the most ornamental features

of this city. Every care has been taken to make the building conform to the latest principles of library economy, to ensure safety from fire, and ample accommodation for accessions for the next fifty years, with capacity for expansion for generations hence.

By a happy coincidence, tenders were invited for the building of the Mitchell Library on March 19th, the 70th anniversary of the donor's birthday.

Since definite action has been taken by the Government, and an earnest desire shown to meet Mr. Mitchell's wishes, he has intimated his intention of endowing the Library with a considerable portion of his wealth, so that it will continue to expand after the generous donor may be unable personally to superintend its growth; and it is now, and must more and more become, far the largest purely Australian Library in the world. Mr. Mitchell has never grudged any expense to secure rare books, MSS., pictures, engravings, maps, even coins, and anything else that can help the future historian of Australia to write the history of any phase of its social, scientific, or material development. The value of the collection has been estimated by competent authorities at £100,000, but it is, in point of fact, unique and priceless, as no money could possibly replace it. If the Mitchell Collection were destroyed, with its many original MSS., despatches, reports, unique books, maps, and pamphlets, the history of New South Wales could not be written—which means the history of Australia, for during the first fifty years of Australian history New South Wales practically meant Australia.

Each scientific society has naturally its own specialistic collection of books. Each social circle may have its own class of literature. Each public institution its own groups of books needed for its peculiar requirements. But a national library must cater for all classes in greater or less degree. It should provide, within reasonable limits, the material needed for any student of science, literature, or art. Mr. Mitchell has made Australiana, or books relating to Australia, his specialty, and to that section this wing of the National or Public Library of New South Wales is dedicated.

May we not hope that other book-lovers and collectors may be stimulated by his example to go and do likewise? It has been invariably found in America that the example of donors of books and collections has been very infectious, and that the mere presence of beautiful and commodious libraries in each of the great American States has stimulated book-lovers to present or bequeath their collections to the city or the State, rather than have them broken up after years of patient collecting. The Boston Public Library, for example, which cost half a million to build, and was, when it was erected 10 years ago, the most beautiful building of its kind in America, received donations to the value of its entire cost within ten years of its dedication. What would Great Britain, the United States, France, or any other civilized country, give for a national collection of literature in the widest sense that extended back to its very infancy and embraced the earliest records of its founding? Even with its 3,000,000 volumes, Great Britain has not the material to enable historians of to-day to get the exact records of English history since the Norman Conquest. It is true that the Domesday Book and Magna Charta are available in the British Record Office, but many other MSS. and documents relating to the times before

Caxton introduced printing have disappeared in oblivion, and many of the more valuable books printed during the last five centuries have also been lost. On the other hand, the Mitchell Library is so complete in all the printed books and a great many MS. records relating to the early history and development of this country that it is rare for a fresh book of great value, or a map or chart, or old MS., to come now under Mr. Mitchell's notice. In his researches he has interpreted "Australia" in the widest sense to cover Australasia and the whole of the Pacific Islands, from the Philippines to the Sandwich Group. He has collected all books dealing with the travels of the earliest Portuguese, Dutch, and Spanish navigators, down to Captain Cook, neglecting no record that deals with the earliest efforts of explorers to reach the long-dreamed-of Terra Australis or the Great Southern Sea or any of its islands. He has collected all books dealing with the anthropology, ethnology, philology, geology, botany, economics, and all the natural sciences relating to the whole of this great region. His endeavour has been to make the Library so complete that students from all lands who wish to study the history of any aspect of the national, political, social, or physical development of the vast tract of Australia, and the islands supposed to be links connecting it with Asia and America, will have to come to Sydney for material, as even now they are coming from the universities of Europe and the United States, to study at first hand our peculiar social and political development, and our marvellous flora and fauna.

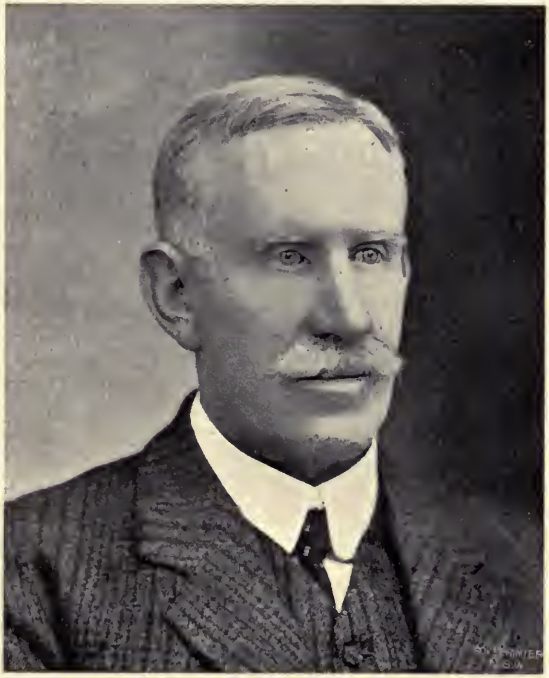
While Mr. Mitchell has made it his special care to secure all the old and rare books and every record that can throw light on our own past history, he has left to the State Library trustees the task of providing current Australian literature and newspapers, and a fair selection of the best books of the busy literary and official world of to-day. This they have done as well as their means would allow, so that seldom any student is unable to find the reference or authority he requires. In the history of the Library are many names of distinguished men who have done yeoman service for the institution, chief among whom I would commemorate to-day those of Professor Charles Badham and Professor W. J. Stephens, whose representatives I am glad to see present with us to-day.

Many poor students who have distinguished themselves in our schools and university have made grateful acknowledgment of the Library's aid in achieving their honors, and in acquiring a higher knowledge which is often unattainable owing to the cost of the necessary books. The Institution has ever been free to all who love learning, and show the seemly behaviour of lovers.

For our age and population we have no cause to be ashamed of the size and value of our State Library. With the Mitchell Collection, it will number nearly a quarter of a million volumes—a volume to each family in the State averaging six souls. The British Museum—The National Library of Great Britain—has only one volume to each sixteen persons, the French National Library, about the same, the German Library even less, and the Congress Library of Washington only one volume to forty persons. Of course, these older countries have many other large libraries which are supplementary to the national one, but no country spends more public money on books for free general use per head of the population than New South Wales. It is a matter of some gratulation that while, as a young people, we have

been busy cutting down the forests, ploughing the virgin fields, opening mines and building pioneers' homes, the proceedings of this day emphasize the fact that we have not forgotten those higher and nobler achievements pertaining to a people truly great, and that one of our own sons and earliest University students has devoted his life to such a nobly patriotic purpose.

It is my sincere hope and confident expectation that the finances of the State will warrant the Government in pressing on with the whole plan as designed by Mr. Vernon and approved by the Public Works Committee, so that we may have a Library worthy of the State, and a complete building worthy of the site and its high purpose.



LIEUT.-COL. W. L. VERNON, F.R.I.B.A.,
Government Architect.

I trust also that the Municipal Council of Sydney will soon realize its obligations to furnish from city rates a library for the literary recreation of its citizens, and leave to the State the more strictly educational functions of a great Reference Library and Archives of National History.

The Trustees of the Public Library have long suffered many disabilities and difficulties owing to the unsatisfactory planning of the old building and its unsuitability for the rapid expansion necessary in a State Library. With the new well-planned building, much better work will be possible. It will be the quiet home of the earnest student, rich or poor, old or young, who seeks for knowledge and mental improvement.

We pride ourselves on our system of public schools, by the aid of which every child is enabled to get a good primary education as his share of the common heritage, and we have made the opportunities of education as broad as a generous Parliament can make them. In doing this, however, we but place the key of knowledge in the student's hand. The corollary or complement of the public school must be the treasury which that key opens—the Public Library, which will carry on the work the schools have begun. At that critical period when good and evil influences are contending in the soul of youth, when temptations are strongest, the power of resistance weakest, we should place all the incitements, all the allurements,

all the opportunities, on the side of good. We should provide mental pabulum for all classes but the vicious and the literary trifler. We should offer our boys and girls the lives of men and women whose deeds have won them true glory, and whom mankind delight to honour. We should place in our youths' hands the story of our nation, with its noble achievements and its illustrious men. We should give them the chance of associating in spirit with all the greatest and noblest thinkers and workers that have adorned the world's history. For every pure taste, for every worthy ambition, the Public Library can provide; towards every aspiration for good it can give an impetus. In the busy arena of to-day not only the scholar, but the man of business, the merchant, the professional man, the mechanic, touches life at a hundred points. Success in any avenue of useful work presupposes some knowledge of the sciences and their application, of branches of philosophy and economics, of history and of geography. To the man and woman whose opportunities have not gone beyond the primary school, the Public Library is a great continuation class-room. Some who have got only a taste from the Pierian spring of knowledge will, if the opportunity be allowed them, press forward to drink deeper and still deeper draughts of life-giving knowledge. Where can such opportunities be provided? For some the higher schools are open: for the highly favoured few the University offers its valued teachings: but to the great mass of the people the Public Library gives the chief opportunity of supplementing the knowledge already acquired, with the glowing thoughts and burning words of the best writers and the greatest thinkers. The Public Library places everyone on a broad platform of democratic equality, such as can only exist in the republic of letters. It is the people's University, where all may read, learn, and profit by the results of the thought and study of those who have unselfishly devoted their lives to extending the boundaries of knowledge. Even to the most highly educated of our University men it is a storehouse of the learning of all ages, to which he can come for further knowledge and renewed inspiration. In it he will find recorded the evolution or development of the moral, religious, social and intellectual life of the whole human family.

Books are a necessity of our advanced civilization. By their means we are able to place our own thoughts and actions in co-relation with what mankind is doing, and they thus form a great electric chain that links together the great families of the human race, past as well as present. In them the great and good men of all ages and all countries live. A great Reference Library, such as this will be, is composed of the best thoughts of the best thinkers of all time. It contains the diary of the human race. The memory of the individual goes back but a little way; or if it goes back far, it picks up but here a date and there an occurrence half forgotten. When he keeps a diary of his life, he can keep the whole of its scenes before him. The memory of the human race is as short, as fragmentary, as accidental, as that of the individual. But with the books of mankind gathered together in one large room, we can sit down and read the solemn story of man's history from his birth, through all his mutations, and thus learn to reverence our ancestors, ascertain our own descent, and find the secret sources of the great problem we call life. If a man be merely

utilitarian, he may here get himself ready for his calling, prepare himself for his examination, increase the worldly wisdom that will better fit him for his profession, his trade, or other means of making money. It will even be a place of pastime, for what amusement more innocent, more sweet and gracious, more refreshing, than the poetry and other works of imagination of hosts of our beloved authors. By its magic aid we can choose our companions among the wisest, best, noblest, and most charming of men and women. And this Library will be a great reception room where we may hold intercourse with the greatest intellects in the world's history—the master-spirits of the race, and we may enjoy their converse when and so long as we will. This Library will be free to all, with no restrictions but such as decency and order demand. We might inscribe over the portals the welcome of the Hebrew prophet of old: " Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come ! " Who can picture the far-reaching educational possibilities of this Library ? It is in the constant, silent, and pervasive influence of the Library that its power resides.

The good that David Scott Mitchell has done will live after him, and will not be interred with his bones. It is a matter of regret that no portrait nor bust of this great benefactor to the community is available. The Government offered to have a portrait or bust made, and private friends subscribed enough to have a picture painted by a celebrated artist, but the innate modesty of the donor would not allow him to accede to this request. This building will, however, be a monument to him " more enduring than brass," and we might inscribe in its vestibule the same motto as was used as an epitaph for the great architect of St. Paul's Cathedral: " Si monumentum requiris, circumspice "—(If you seek a monument to this man, look about you). A century hence, when the donor and his admirers shall have passed away, when this city shall have become the rival in the southern seas of the great cities of the old world, when science shall have realized more of its great victories, and answers shall have been found to many of the enigmas which now perplex mankind, this institution will, I am confident, be found to be a treasure-house of all that is worth preserving in our national history and literature; it will have been found faithful to its duty of disseminating amongst all classes whatever is best in human thought and endeavour; and then probably a true estimate of the great benefaction which we commemorate to-day will be possible, and the citizens of New South Wales will be able to record what they owe to David Scott Mitchell.

At the termination of the Premier's speech, the Hon. J. F. Burns, the doyen of the Library Trustees, moved a vote of thanks to the Premier. The Hon. J. Hayes, M.L.C., seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation. On the motion of Mr. Carruthers a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Kethel.

Mr. Kethel called for cheers for the King and for Mr David Scott Mitchell, which were heartily given, and the ceremony ended.

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